



**Naturalization Test:
Civics (History and Government) Questions**
Excerpts

The civics (history and government) questions and answers for the naturalization test to become a U.S. citizen are listed below. The civics test is an oral test and the immigration officer will ask the applicant up to 10 of the 100 civics questions. An applicant must answer six out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test. These 35 questions are excerpted from the 100-question test.

1. What is the supreme law of the land?

U.S. Constitution

2. What does the Constitution do?

Sets up the government
Defines the government
Protects basic rights of Americans

3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?

We the People

4. What do we call the first 10 amendments to the Constitution?

Bill of Rights

5. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?

Speech
Religion
Assembly
Press
Petition the government

6. How many amendments does the Constitution have?

27

7. What is the "rule of law"?

Everyone must follow the law.
Leaders must obey the law.
Governments must obey the law.
No one is above the law

8. Name one branch or part of the government.

Congress (legislative) Courts (judicial)
President (executive)

9. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

Checks and balances
Separation of powers

10. What does the judicial branch do?

Reviews laws
Explains laws
Resolves disputes (disagreements)
Decides if a law is unconstitutional

11. What is the highest court in the United States?

Supreme Court

12. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

Nine

13. Who is the chief justice of the United States now?

John Roberts (John G. Roberts Jr.)

14. Under the U.S. Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?

To print money
To declare war
To create an army
To make treaties

15. Under the U.S. Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?

Provide schooling and education
Provide protection (police)
Provide safety (fire departments)
Give a driver's license
Approve zoning and land use

- 16. What did the Declaration of Independence do?**
Announced our Independence (from Great Britain)
- 17. Who is in charge of the executive branch?**
President
- 18. What are two Cabinet-level positions?**
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|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Agriculture secretary | Interior secretary |
| Commerce secretary | Labor secretary |
| Defense secretary | Secretary of State |
| Education secretary | Transportation secretary |
| Energy secretary | Treasury secretary |
| Health & Human Services secretary | Veterans Affairs secretary |
| Homeland Security secretary | Attorney General |
| House and Urban Development secretary | Vice President |
- 19. What are the two major political parties in the United States?**
Democratic and Republican
- 20. What is the political party of the President now?**
Democratic
- 21. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?**
(John) Boehner
- 22. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.**
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|---|---|
| Citizens 18 and older (can vote).
You don't have to pay to vote. | Any citizen can vote. (Women and men)
A male citizen of any race (can vote). |
|---|---|
- 23. What is one responsibility that is only for U.S. Citizens?**
Serve on a jury
Vote in a federal election
- 24. Name one right only for U.S. citizens.**
Vote in a federal election
Run for federal office
- 25. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?**
18 and older
- 26. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?**
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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Vote | Call senators and representatives |
| Join a political party | Publicly support or oppose an issue or policy |
| Help with a campaign | Run for office |
| Join a civic group | Write to a newspaper |
| Join a community group | |
| Give an elected official your opinion | |
- 27. When must all men register for the Selective Service?**
At age 18; between 18 and 26
- 28. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?**
American Indians (Native Americans)
- 29. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?**
The Constitution was written.
- 30. When was the Constitution written?**
1787
- 31. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?**
Communism
- 32. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?**
Civil rights (movement)
- 33. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?**
Because there were 13 original colonies
- 34. Why does the flag have 50 stars?**
Because there is one star for each state
- 35. What is the name of the national anthem?**
The Star-Spangled Banner