

Becoming a U.S. Citizen

A person born in another country may become an American citizen. Many people use an attorney to help them understand the laws and to fill out the documents.

The information of these pages comes from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services at **USCIS.gov**. You can get more information and application forms at the USCIS website.

In order to become a U.S. citizen, you must:

1. Enter the United States legally as a permanent resident. The permanent resident card is also called a Green Card. (It used to be green, but now it isn't.)
2. Live in the U.S. for five years after becoming a permanent resident. If you are married to an American citizen, or have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, the time is three years.
3. Be 18 years of age or older.
4. Have a good moral character.
5. Pass a civics test of ten questions taken from 100 sample questions.
6. Pass a written test of English
7. Pay a fee of \$595 plus \$85 for biometrics (fingerprinting), and fill out an application. Applications are available at the **USCIS.gov** website.
8. Get fingerprinted for an FBI check.

It may take more than a year for the USCIS to process your application.

You will get an invitation and instructions to come to a naturalization event. You and other new citizens must swear an oath of citizenship. This means you give up loyalty to your home country, and promise to be loyal to the United States.

Then you can vote in elections and run for office. You can apply for a U.S. passport. Citizens may also be called to serve on a jury.

The Civics Test for Citizenship in the United States

When you go for your naturalization test, the USCIS officer will ask 10 questions. It is an oral test. You listen to the question and speak your answer. You don't have to read the questions or write the answers.

You must answer at least six out of ten questions correctly to pass the civics part of the naturalization test. The ten questions on your test will come from this set of 100 questions. A computer will choose your ten questions.

You can take practice tests at the USCIS website. You can hear someone speak the questions and answers there, too. Or work with a friend who can ask you the questions.

(If you have read *Easy English NEWS* for the past few years, you will know most of the answers. You can study the other answers here as well.)

There are five different kinds of questions. You may have at least one question from each group:

- A. The principles of democracy
- B. The American System of Government
- C. American History
- D. U.S. Geography
- E. American holidays and symbols

Print out the test pages (page 3 to ???) and write your answers, or have someone ask you the questions. Then check your answers on pages ??? to >>>.

The test is not easy. You can be proud when you do well on the test.

Try giving the test to someone born in the U.S. to see how they would do!

People who are 65 or older and have lived in the U.S. 20 or more years can study only the questions marked with an asterisk (*)

Some of the questions have many correct answers. You need to give only one correct answer.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A: Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
2. What does the Constitution do?
3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
4. What is an amendment?
5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment
7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
10. What is freedom of religion?
11. What is the economic system in the United States
12. What is the “rule of law”?

B: System of Government

13. Name one branch or part of the government
14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?
15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?
16. Who makes federal laws?
17. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?*
18. How many U.S. Senators are there?
19. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years
20. Who is one of your state’s U.S. Senators now?*
21. The House of Representatives has how many voting members
22. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years
23. Name your U.S. Representative
24. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
25. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

26. We elect a President for how many years?
27. In what month do we vote for President?*
28. What is the name of the President of the United States
29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?
30. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
31. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
32. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
33. Who signs bills to become laws?
34. Who vetoes bills?
35. What does the President's Cabinet do?
36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?
37. What does the judicial branch do
38. What is the highest court in the United States?
39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?
41. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?
42. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?
43. Who is the Governor of your state now?
44. What is the capital of your state?*
45. What are the two major political parties in the United States?
46. What is the political party of the President now?
47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

C: Rights and Responsibilities

48. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.
49. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?*
50. Name one right only for United States citizens.
51. What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?

52. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
53. What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?
54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?*
55. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?
56. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?*
57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?

AMERICAN HISTORY

A: Colonial Period and Independence

58. What is one reason colonists came to America?
59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
60. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?
61. Why did the colonists fight the British?
62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
64. There were 13 original states. Name three.
65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
66. When was the Constitution written?
67. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.
68. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?
69. Who is the “Father of Our Country”?
70. Who was the first President?*

B: 1800s

71. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
72. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.
73. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.
74. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

75. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?*
76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

78. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.*
79. Who was President during World War I?
80. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?
81. Who did the United States fight in World War II
82. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?
83. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?
84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?
85. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?*
86. What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?
87. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States

INTEGRATED CIVICS

A: Geography

88. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.
89. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?
90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States
91. Name one U.S. territory
92. Name one state that borders Canada.
93. Name one state that borders Mexico.
94. What is the capital of the United States?*
95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?*

B: Symbols

96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?*

98. What is the name of the national anthem?

C: Holidays

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day

100. Name two national U.S. holidays. _____

ANSWERS

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A: Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
the 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 is an amendment?
a change (to the Constitution)
an addition (to the Constitution)
5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
the Bill of Rights
6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?*

 - speech
 - religion
 - assembly
 - press
 - petition the government

7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
twenty-seven (27)
8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?

announced our independence (from Great Britain)
declared our independence (from Great Britain)
said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)
9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
life
liberty
pursuit of happiness
10. What is freedom of religion?
You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.

11. What is the economic system in the United States?*

capitalist economy
market economy

12. What is the “rule of law”?

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

B: System of Government

13. Name one branch or part of the government.*

Congress
legislative
President
executive
the courts
judicial

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

checks and balances
separation of powers

15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?

the President

16. Who makes federal laws?

Congress
Senate and House (of Representatives)
(U.S. or national) legislature

17. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?*

the Senate and House (of Representatives)

18. How many U.S. Senators are there?

one hundred (100)

19. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?

six (6)

20. Who is one of your state’s U.S. Senators now?*

Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents and residents of U.S. territories should answer that D.C. (or the territory where the applicant lives) has no U.S. Senators.

21. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

four hundred thirty-five (435)

22. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?
two (2)
23. Name your U.S. Representative.
Answers will vary. [Residents of territories with nonvoting Delegates or Resident Commissioners may provide the name of that Delegate or Commissioner. Also acceptable is any statement that the territory has no (voting) Representatives in Congress.]
24. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
all people of the state
25. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?
(because of) the state's population
(because) they have more people
(because) some states have more people
26. We elect a President for how many years?
four (4)
27. In what month do we vote for President?*
- November
28. What is the name of the President of the United States now?*
- Barack Obama
Obama
29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?
- Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Joe Biden
Biden
30. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
the Vice President
31. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
the Speaker of the House
32. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
the President
33. Who signs bills to become laws?
the President
34. Who vetoes bills?
the President
35. What does the President's Cabinet do?
advises the President

36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?
- Secretary of Agriculture
 - Secretary of Commerce
 - Secretary of Defense
 - Secretary of Education
 - Secretary of Energy
 - Secretary of Health and Human Services
 - Secretary of Homeland Security
 - Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
 - Secretary of the Interior
 - Secretary of Labor
 - Secretary of State
 - Secretary of Transportation
 - Secretary of the Treasury
 - Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 - Attorney General
 - Vice President
37. What does the judicial branch do?
- reviews laws
 - explains laws
 - resolves disputes (disagreements)
 - decides if a law goes against the Constitution
38. What is the highest court in the United States?
- the Supreme Court
39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
- nine (9)
40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?
- John Roberts (John G. Roberts, Jr.)
41. Under our 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
42. Under our 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
43. Who is the Governor of your state now?
- Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. does not have a Governor.]

44. What is the capital of your state?*
- Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. is not a state and does not have a capital. Residents of U.S. territories should name the capital of the territory.]
45. What are the two major political parties in the United States?*
- Democratic and Republican
46. What is the political party of the President now?
- Democratic (Party)
47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?
- (John) Boehner [BAY ner]

C: Rights and Responsibilities

48. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.
- Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).
You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.
Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)
A male citizen of any race (can vote).
49. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?*
- serve on a jury
vote in a federal election
50. Name one right only for United States citizens.
- vote in a federal election
run for federal office
51. What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?
- freedom of expression
freedom of speech
freedom of assembly
freedom to petition the government
freedom of worship
the right to bear arms
52. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
- the United States
the flag
53. What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?
- give up loyalty to other countries
defend the Constitution and laws of the United States
obey the laws of the United States
serve in the U.S. military (if needed)
serve (do important work for) the nation (if needed)
be loyal to the United States

54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?*
- eighteen (18) and older
55. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?
- vote
 - join a political party
 - help with a campaign
 - join a civic group
 - join a community group
 - give an elected official your opinion on an issue
 - call Senators and Representatives
 - publicly support or oppose an issue or policy
 - run for office
 - write to a newspaper
56. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?*
- April 15
57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?
- at age eighteen (18)
 - between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)

AMERICAN HISTORY

A: Colonial Period and Independence

58. What is one reason colonists came to America?
- freedom
 - political liberty
 - religious freedom
 - economic opportunity
 - practice their religion
 - escape persecution
59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
- American Indians
 - Native Americans
60. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?
- Africans
 - people from Africa
61. Why did the colonists fight the British?
- because of high taxes (taxation without representation)
 - because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)
 - because they didn't have self-government
62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
- (Thomas) Jefferson
63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
- July 4, 1776

64. There were 13 original states. Name three.

New Hampshire

Massachusetts

Rhode Island

Connecticut

New York

New Jersey

Pennsylvania

Delaware

Maryland

Virginia

North Carolina

South Carolina

Georgia

65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

The Constitution was written.

The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.

66. When was the Constitution written?

1787

67. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.

(James) Madison

(Alexander) Hamilton

(John) Jay

Publius

68. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

U.S. diplomat

oldest member of the Constitutional Convention

first Postmaster General of the United States

writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac"

started the first free libraries

69. Who is the "Father of Our Country"?

(George) Washington

70. Who was the first President?*

(George) Washington

B: 1800s

71. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

the Louisiana Territory

Louisiana

72. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.

War of 1812

Mexican-American War

Civil War
Spanish-American War

73. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.
the Civil War
the War between the States
74. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.
slavery
economic reasons
states' rights
75. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?*
- freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)
 - saved (or preserved) the Union
 - led the United States during the Civil War
76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
- freed the slaves
 - freed slaves in the Confederacy
 - freed slaves in the Confederate states
 - freed slaves in most Southern states
77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?
- fought for women's rights
 - fought for civil rights

C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

78. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.*
- World War I
 - World War II
 - Korean War
 - Vietnam War
 - (Persian) Gulf War
79. Who was President during World War I?
(Woodrow) Wilson
80. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?
(Franklin) Roosevelt
81. Who did the United States fight in World War II?
Japan, Germany, and Italy
82. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?
World War II
83. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?
Communism

84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?
civil rights (movement)

85. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?*

- fought for civil rights
- worked for equality for all Americans

86. What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?
Terrorists attacked the United States.

87. Name **one** American Indian tribe in the United States.

[USCIS Officers will be supplied with a list of federally recognized American Indian tribes.]

Cherokee	Navajo	Sioux	Chippewa	Choctaw
Pueblo	Apache	Iroquois	Creek	Blackfeet
Seminole	Cheyenne	Arawak	Shawnee	Mohegan
Huron	Oneida	Lakota	Crow	Teton
Hopi	Inuit			

INTEGRATED CIVICS

A: Geography

88. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

- Missouri (River)
- Mississippi (River)

89. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?
Pacific (Ocean)

90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?
Atlantic (Ocean)

91. Name one U.S. territory.

- Puerto Rico
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- American Samoa
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Guam

92. Name one state that borders Canada.

- Maine
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Ohio
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- North Dakota

Montana
Idaho
Washington
Alaska

93. Name one state that borders Mexico.

California
Arizona
New Mexico
Texas

94. What is the capital of the United States?*

Washington, D.C.

95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?*

New York (Harbor)
Liberty Island

[Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]

B: Symbols

96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

because there were 13 original colonies
because the stripes represent the original colonies

97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?*

because there is one star for each state
because each star represents a state
because there are 50 states

98. What is the name of the national anthem?

The Star-Spangled Banner

C: Holidays

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?*

July 4

100. Name two national U.S. holidays.

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Presidents Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Veterans Day
Thanksgiving
Christmas