

2008 CIVICS TEST • FREE STUDY GUIDE

The 2008 U.S. Citizenship Test

All 100 official civics questions and acceptable answers. For applicants whose Form N-400 was received before October 20, 2025.

100

QUESTIONS TO
STUDY

10

ASKED AT
INTERVIEW

6

CORRECT TO
PASS

How the test works. The USCIS officer reads up to 10 questions aloud. You must answer 6 correctly to pass. The officer stops as soon as you reach 6 correct or fail.

About this guide. Question wording follows the official USCIS 2008 list. Some answers change with elections — always confirm at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.

American Government

A: PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Question 1

What is the supreme law of the land?

- ✓ The Constitution

Question 2

What does the Constitution do?

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

Question 3

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

- ✓ We the People

Question 4

What is an amendment?

- ✓ A change (to the Constitution)
- ✓ An addition (to the Constitution)

Question 5

What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

- ✓ The Bill of Rights

Question 6

What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?

- ✓ Speech
- ✓ Religion
- ✓ Assembly
- ✓ Press
- ✓ Petition the government

Question 7

How many amendments does the Constitution have?

- ✓ Twenty-seven (27)

Question 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)

Question 9

What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

- ✓ Life
- ✓ Liberty
- ✓ Pursuit of happiness

Question 10

What is freedom of religion?

- ✓ You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion

Question 11

What is the economic system in the United States?

- ✓ Capitalist economy
- ✓ Market economy

Question 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

Question 13

Name one branch or part of the government.

- ✓ Congress
- ✓ Legislative
- ✓ President
- ✓ Executive
- ✓ The courts
- ✓ Judicial

Question 14

What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

- ✓ Checks and balances
- ✓ Separation of powers

Question 15

Who is in charge of the executive branch?

- ✓ The President

Question 16

Who makes federal laws?

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

Question 17

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

- ✓ The Senate and House (of Representatives)

Question 18

How many U.S. Senators are there?

- ✓ One hundred (100)

Question 19

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

- ✓ Six (6)

Question 20

Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators now?

- ✓ Answers will vary by state — see states data file

This answer changes with elections — verify at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.

Question 21

The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

- ✓ Four hundred thirty-five (435)

Question 22

We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?

- ✓ Two (2)

Question 23

Name your U.S. Representative.

- ✓ Answers will vary by congressional district

This answer changes with elections — verify at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.

Question 24

Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

- ✓ All people of the state

Question 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

Question 26

We elect a President for how many years?

- ✓ Four (4)

Question 27

In what month do we vote for President?

- ✓ November

Question 28

What is the name of the President of the United States now?

- ✓ Verify current President at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates (Donald Trump as of mid-2026)

This answer changes with elections — verify at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.

Question 29

What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?

- ✓ Verify current Vice President at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates (JD Vance as of mid-2026)

This answer changes with elections — verify at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.

Question 30

If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

- ✓ The Vice President

Question 31

If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

- ✓ The Speaker of the House

Question 32

Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?

- ✓ The President

Question 33

Who signs bills to become laws?

- ✓ The President

Question 34

Who vetoes bills?

- ✓ The President

Question 35

What does the President's Cabinet do?

- ✓ Advises the President

Question 36

What are two Cabinet-level positions?

- ✓ Attorney General
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Vice President

Question 37

What does the judicial branch do?

- ✓ Reviews laws
- ✓ Explains laws
- ✓ Resolves disputes (disagreements)
- ✓ Decides if a law goes against the Constitution

Question 38

What is the highest court in the United States?

- ✓ The Supreme Court

Question 39

How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

- ✓ Nine (9) — verify at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates

This answer changes with elections — verify at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.

Question 40

Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

- ✓ Verify current Chief Justice at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates (John Roberts as of mid-2026)

This answer changes with elections — verify at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.

Question 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

Question 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

Question 43

Who is the Governor of your state now?

- ✓ Answers will vary by state — see states data file

This answer changes with elections — verify at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.

Question 44

What is the capital of your state?

- ✓ Answers will vary by state — see states data file

Question 45

What are the two major political parties in the United States?

- ✓ Democratic and Republican

Question 46

What is the political party of the President now?

- ✓ Verify at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates (Republican as of mid-2026)

This answer changes with elections — verify at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.

Question 47

What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

- ✓ Verify current Speaker at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates (Mike Johnson as of mid-2026)

This answer changes with elections — verify at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.

C: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Question 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)

Question 49

What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?

- ✓ Serve on a jury
- ✓ Vote in a federal election

Question 50

Name one right only for United States citizens.

- ✓ Vote in a federal election
- ✓ Run for federal office

Question 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 religion
- ✓ The right to bear arms

Question 52

What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

- ✓ The United States
- ✓ The flag

Question 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

Question 54

How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?

- ✓ Eighteen (18) and older

Question 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

Question 56

When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?

- ✓ April 15

Question 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

Question 58

What is one reason colonists came to America?

- ✓ Freedom
- ✓ Political liberty
- ✓ Religious freedom
- ✓ Economic opportunity
- ✓ Practice their religion
- ✓ Escape persecution

Question 59

Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

- ✓ American Indians
- ✓ Native Americans

Question 60

What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?

- ✓ Africans
- ✓ People from Africa

Question 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

Question 62

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

- ✓ (Thomas) Jefferson

Question 63

When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

- ✓ July 4, 1776

Question 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

Question 65

What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

- ✓ The Constitution was written
- ✓ The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution

Question 66

When was the Constitution written?

- ✓ 1787

Question 67

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

- ✓ (James) Madison
- ✓ (Alexander) Hamilton
- ✓ (John) Jay
- ✓ Publius

Question 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

Question 69

Who is the "Father of Our Country"?

- ✓ (George) Washington

Question 70

Who was the first President?

- ✓ (George) Washington

B: 1800S

Question 71

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

- ✓ The Louisiana Territory
- ✓ Louisiana

Question 72

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

- ✓ War of 1812
- ✓ Mexican–American War
- ✓ Civil War
- ✓ Spanish–American War

Question 73

Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.

- ✓ The Civil War
- ✓ The War between the States

Question 74

Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

- ✓ Slavery
- ✓ Economic reasons
- ✓ States' rights

Question 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

Question 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

Question 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

Question 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

Question 79

Who was President during World War I?

- ✓ (Woodrow) Wilson

Question 80

Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?

- ✓ (Franklin) Roosevelt

Question 81

Who did the United States fight in World War II?

- ✓ Japan, Germany, and Italy

Question 82

Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?

- ✓ World War II

Question 83

During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?

- ✓ Communism

Question 84

What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

- ✓ Civil rights (movement)

Question 85

What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

- ✓ Fought for civil rights
- ✓ Worked for equality for all Americans

Question 86

What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?

- ✓ Terrorists attacked the United States

Question 87

Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

- ✓ 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**Question 88**

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

- ✓ Missouri (River)
- ✓ Mississippi (River)

Question 89

What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

- ✓ Pacific (Ocean)

Question 90

What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?

- ✓ Atlantic (Ocean)

Question 91

Name one U.S. territory.

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

Question 92

Name one state that borders Canada.

- ✓ Maine
- ✓ New Hampshire
- ✓ Vermont
- ✓ New York
- ✓ Pennsylvania
- ✓ Ohio
- ✓ Michigan
- ✓ Minnesota
- ✓ North Dakota
- ✓ Montana
- ✓ Idaho
- ✓ Washington
- ✓ Alaska

Question 93

Name one state that borders Mexico.

- ✓ California
- ✓ Arizona
- ✓ New Mexico
- ✓ Texas

Question 94

What is the capital of the United States?

- ✓ Washington, D.C.

Question 95

Where is the Statue of Liberty?

- ✓ New York (Harbor)
- ✓ Liberty Island
- ✓ Also acceptable: New Jersey, near New York City, on the Hudson (River)

B: SYMBOLS

Question 96

Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

- ✓ Because there were 13 original colonies
- ✓ Because the stripes represent the original colonies

Question 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

Question 98**What is the name of the national anthem?**

- ✓ The Star-Spangled Banner

C: HOLIDAYS**Question 99****When do we celebrate Independence Day?**

- ✓ July 4

Question 100**Name two national U.S. holidays.**

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

This study guide is not affiliated with USCIS. Question wording is drawn from official USCIS study materials, which are in the public domain. Always verify current answers at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates before your interview.