

2025 CIVICS TEST • FREE STUDY GUIDE

The 2025 U.S. Citizenship Test

All 128 official civics questions and acceptable answers. For applicants who filed Form N-400 on or after October 20, 2025.

128

QUESTIONS TO
STUDY

20

ASKED AT
INTERVIEW

12

CORRECT TO
PASS

How the test works. The civics test is oral. A USCIS officer reads questions aloud and marks each answer correct or incorrect. The officer stops as soon as you reach 12 correct (pass) or 9 incorrect (fail).

About this guide. Question wording follows the official USCIS 2025 list. Answers marked with a note change with elections or appointments — always confirm current officeholders at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.

American Government

A: PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Question 1

What is the form of government of the United States?

- ✓ Republic
- ✓ Constitution-based federal republic
- ✓ Representative democracy

Question 2

What is the supreme law of the land?

- ✓ (U.S.) Constitution

Question 3

Name one thing the U.S. Constitution does.

- ✓ Forms the government
- ✓ Defines powers of government
- ✓ Defines the parts of government
- ✓ Protects the rights of the people

Question 4

The U.S. Constitution starts with the words "We the People." What does "We the People" mean?

- ✓ Self-government
- ✓ Popular sovereignty
- ✓ Consent of the governed
- ✓ People should govern themselves
- ✓ (Example of) social contract

Question 5

How are changes made to the U.S. Constitution?

- ✓ Amendments
- ✓ The amendment process

Question 6

What does the Bill of Rights protect?

- ✓ (The basic) rights of Americans
- ✓ (The basic) rights of people living in the United States

Question 7

How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have?

- ✓ Twenty-seven (27)

Question 8

Why is the Declaration of Independence important?

- ✓ It says America is free from British control
- ✓ It says all people are created equal
- ✓ It identifies inherent rights
- ✓ It identifies individual freedoms

Question 9

What founding document said the American colonies were free from Britain?

- ✓ Declaration of Independence

Question 10

Name two important ideas from the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

- ✓ Equality
- ✓ Liberty
- ✓ Social contract
- ✓ Natural rights
- ✓ Limited government
- ✓ Self-government

Question 11

The words "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" are in what founding document?

- ✓ Declaration of Independence

Question 12

What is the economic system of the United States?

- ✓ Capitalism
- ✓ Free market economy

Question 13

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

Question 14

Many documents influenced the U.S. Constitution. Name one.

- ✓ Declaration of Independence
- ✓ Articles of Confederation
- ✓ Federalist Papers
- ✓ Anti-Federalist Papers
- ✓ Virginia Declaration of Rights
- ✓ Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
- ✓ Mayflower Compact
- ✓ Iroquois Great Law of Peace

Question 15

There are three branches of government. Why?

- ✓ So one part does not become too powerful
- ✓ Checks and balances
- ✓ Separation of powers

B: SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Question 16

Name the three branches of government.

- ✓ Legislative, executive, and judicial
- ✓ Congress, president, and the courts

Question 17

The President of the United States is in charge of which branch of government?

- ✓ Executive branch

Question 18

What part of the federal government writes laws?

- ✓ (U.S.) Congress
- ✓ (U.S. or national) legislature
- ✓ Legislative branch

Question 19

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

- ✓ Senate and House (of Representatives)

Question 20

Name one power of the U.S. Congress.

- ✓ Writes laws
- ✓ Declares war
- ✓ Makes the federal budget

Question 21

How many U.S. senators are there?

- ✓ One hundred (100)

Question 22

How long is a term for a U.S. senator?

- ✓ Six (6) years

Question 23

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 24

How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?

- ✓ Four hundred thirty-five (435)

Question 25

How long is a term for a member of the House of Representatives?

- ✓ Two (2) years

Question 26

Why do U.S. representatives serve shorter terms than U.S. senators?

- ✓ To more closely follow public opinion

Question 27

How many senators does each state have?

- ✓ Two (2)

Question 28

Why does each state have two senators?

- ✓ Equal representation (for small states)
- ✓ The Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise)

Question 29

Name your U.S. representative.

- ✓ Answers will vary by congressional district

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

Question 30

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.

Question 31

Who does a U.S. senator represent?

- ✓ Citizens of their state
- ✓ People of their state

Question 32

Who elects U.S. senators?

- ✓ Citizens from their state

Question 33

Who does a member of the House of Representatives represent?

- ✓ Citizens in their (congressional) district
- ✓ People of their (congressional) district

Question 34

Who elects members of the House of Representatives?

- ✓ Citizens from their (congressional) district

Question 35

Some states have more representatives than other states. Why?

- ✓ (Because of) the state's population
- ✓ (Because) they have more people
- ✓ (Because) some states have more people

Question 36

The President of the United States is elected for how many years?

- ✓ Four (4) years

Question 37

The President of the United States can serve only two terms. Why?

- ✓ (Because of) the 22nd Amendment
- ✓ To keep the president from becoming too powerful

Question 38

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 39

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 40

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

- ✓ The Vice President (of the United States)

Question 41

Name one power of the president.

- ✓ Signs bills into law
- ✓ Vetoes bills
- ✓ Enforces laws
- ✓ Commander in Chief (of the military)
- ✓ Chief diplomat
- ✓ Appoints federal judges

Question 42

Who is Commander in Chief of the U.S. military?

- ✓ The President (of the United States)

Question 43

Who signs bills to become laws?

- ✓ The President (of the United States)

Question 44

Who vetoes bills?

- ✓ The President (of the United States)

Question 45

Who appoints federal judges?

- ✓ The President (of the United States)

Question 46

The executive branch has many parts. Name one.

- ✓ President (of the United States)
- ✓ Cabinet
- ✓ Federal departments and agencies

Question 47

What does the President's Cabinet do?

- ✓ Advises the President (of the United States)

Question 48**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 (of the United States)

Question 49**Why is the Electoral College important?**

- ✓ It decides who is elected president
- ✓ It provides a compromise between the popular election of the president and congressional selection

Question 50**What is one part of the judicial branch?**

- ✓ Supreme Court
- ✓ Federal courts

Question 51

What does the judicial branch do?

- ✓ Reviews laws
- ✓ Explains laws
- ✓ Resolves disputes (about the law)
- ✓ Decides if a law goes against the (U.S.) Constitution

Question 52

What is the highest court in the United States?

- ✓ Supreme Court

Question 53

How many seats are on the Supreme Court?

- ✓ Nine (9)

Question 54

How many Supreme Court justices are usually needed to decide a case?

- ✓ Five (5)

Question 55

How long do Supreme Court justices serve?

- ✓ (For) life
- ✓ Lifetime appointment
- ✓ (Until) retirement

Question 56

Supreme Court justices serve for life. Why?

- ✓ To be independent (of politics)
- ✓ To limit outside (political) influence

Question 57

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 58

Name one power that is only for the federal government.

- ✓ Print paper money
- ✓ Mint coins
- ✓ Declare war
- ✓ Create an army
- ✓ Make treaties
- ✓ Set foreign policy

Question 59

Name one power that is only for the states.

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

Question 60

What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment?

- ✓ (It states that the) powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or to the people

Question 61

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 62

What is the capital of your state?

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

C: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Question 63

There are four amendments to the U.S. 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 64

Who can vote in federal elections, run for federal office, and serve on a jury in the United States?

- ✓ Citizens
- ✓ Citizens of the United States
- ✓ U.S. citizens

Question 65

What are three 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 66

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

- ✓ The United States
- ✓ The flag

Question 67

Name two promises that new citizens make in the Oath of Allegiance.

- ✓ Give up loyalty to other countries
- ✓ Defend the (U.S.) Constitution
- ✓ Obey the laws of the United States
- ✓ Serve in the military (if needed)
- ✓ Serve (help do important work for) the nation (if needed)
- ✓ Be loyal to the United States

Question 68

How can people become United States citizens?

- ✓ Naturalize
- ✓ Derive citizenship
- ✓ Be born in the United States (subject to conditions outlined in the 14th Amendment and federal law)

Question 69

What are two examples of civic participation in the United States?

- ✓ Vote
- ✓ Run for office
- ✓ 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)
- ✓ Contact elected officials
- ✓ Support or oppose an issue or policy
- ✓ Write to a newspaper

Question 70

What is one way Americans can serve their country?

- ✓ Vote
- ✓ Pay taxes
- ✓ Obey the law
- ✓ Serve in the military
- ✓ Run for office
- ✓ Work for local, state, or federal government

Question 71

Why is it important to pay federal taxes?

- ✓ Required by law
- ✓ All people pay to fund the federal government
- ✓ Required by the (U.S.) Constitution (16th Amendment)
- ✓ Civic duty

Question 72

It is important for all men age 18 through 25 to register for the Selective Service. Name one reason why.

- ✓ Required by law
- ✓ Civic duty
- ✓ Makes the draft fair, if needed

American History

A: COLONIAL PERIOD AND INDEPENDENCE

Question 73

The colonists came to America for many reasons. Name one.

- ✓ Freedom
- ✓ Political liberty
- ✓ Religious freedom
- ✓ Economic opportunity
- ✓ Escape persecution

Question 74

Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

- ✓ American Indians
- ✓ Native Americans

Question 75

What group of people was taken and sold as slaves?

- ✓ Africans
- ✓ People from Africa

Question 76

What war did the Americans fight to win independence from Britain?

- ✓ American Revolution
- ✓ The (American) Revolutionary War
- ✓ War for (American) Independence

Question 77

Name one reason why the Americans declared independence from Britain.

- ✓ High taxes
- ✓ Taxation without representation
- ✓ British soldiers stayed in Americans' houses (boarding, quartering)
- ✓ They did not have self-government
- ✓ Boston Massacre
- ✓ Boston Tea Party (Tea Act)
- ✓ Stamp Act
- ✓ Sugar Act
- ✓ Townshend Acts
- ✓ Intolerable (Coercive) Acts

Question 78

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

- ✓ (Thomas) Jefferson

Question 79

When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

- ✓ July 4, 1776

Question 80

The American Revolution had many important events. Name one.

- ✓ (Battle of) Bunker Hill
- ✓ Declaration of Independence
- ✓ Washington crossing the Delaware River (Battle of Trenton)
- ✓ (Battle of) Saratoga
- ✓ Valley Forge (encampment)
- ✓ (Battle of) Yorktown (British surrender at Yorktown)

Question 81

There were 13 original states. Name five.

- ✓ New Hampshire
- ✓ Massachusetts
- ✓ Rhode Island
- ✓ Connecticut
- ✓ New York
- ✓ New Jersey
- ✓ Pennsylvania
- ✓ Delaware
- ✓ Maryland
- ✓ Virginia
- ✓ North Carolina
- ✓ South Carolina
- ✓ Georgia

Question 82

What founding document was written in 1787?

- ✓ (U.S.) Constitution

Question 83

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

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

Question 84

Why were the Federalist Papers important?

- ✓ They helped people understand the (U.S.) Constitution
- ✓ They supported passing the (U.S.) Constitution

Question 85

Benjamin Franklin is famous for many things. Name one.

- ✓ Founded the first free public libraries
- ✓ First Postmaster General of the United States
- ✓ Helped write the Declaration of Independence
- ✓ Inventor
- ✓ U.S. diplomat

Question 86

George Washington is famous for many things. Name one.

- ✓ "Father of Our Country"
- ✓ First president of the United States
- ✓ General of the Continental Army
- ✓ President of the Constitutional Convention

Question 87

Thomas Jefferson is famous for many things. Name one.

- ✓ Writer of the Declaration of Independence
- ✓ Third president of the United States
- ✓ Doubled the size of the United States (Louisiana Purchase)
- ✓ First Secretary of State
- ✓ Founded the University of Virginia
- ✓ Writer of the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom

Question 88

James Madison is famous for many things. Name one.

- ✓ "Father of the Constitution"
- ✓ Fourth president of the United States
- ✓ President during the War of 1812
- ✓ One of the writers of the Federalist Papers

Question 89

Alexander Hamilton is famous for many things. Name one.

- ✓ First Secretary of the Treasury
- ✓ One of the writers of the Federalist Papers
- ✓ Helped establish the First Bank of the United States
- ✓ Aide to General George Washington
- ✓ Member of the Continental Congress

B: 1800S

Question 90

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

- ✓ Louisiana Territory
- ✓ Louisiana

Question 91

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

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

Question 92

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

- ✓ The Civil War

Question 93

The Civil War had many important events. Name one.

- ✓ (Battle of) Fort Sumter
- ✓ Emancipation Proclamation
- ✓ (Battle of) Vicksburg
- ✓ (Battle of) Gettysburg
- ✓ Sherman's March
- ✓ (Surrender at) Appomattox
- ✓ (Battle of) Antietam
- ✓ Lincoln was assassinated

Question 94

Abraham Lincoln is famous for many things. Name one.

- ✓ Freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)
- ✓ Saved (or preserved) the Union
- ✓ Led the United States during the Civil War
- ✓ 16th president of the United States
- ✓ Delivered the Gettysburg Address

Question 95

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 96

What U.S. war ended slavery?

- ✓ The Civil War

Question 97

What amendment gives citizenship to all persons born in the United States?

- ✓ 14th Amendment

Question 98

When did all men get the right to vote?

- ✓ After the Civil War
- ✓ During Reconstruction
- ✓ (With the) 15th Amendment
- ✓ 1870

Question 99

Name one leader of the women's rights movement in the 1800s.

- ✓ Susan B. Anthony
- ✓ Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- ✓ Sojourner Truth
- ✓ Harriet Tubman
- ✓ Lucretia Mott
- ✓ Lucy Stone

C: RECENT AMERICAN HISTORY AND OTHER IMPORTANT HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Question 100

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 101

Why did the United States enter World War I?

- ✓ Because Germany attacked U.S. (civilian) ships
- ✓ To support the Allied Powers (England, France, and Italy)
- ✓ To oppose the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria)

Question 102

When did all women get the right to vote?

- ✓ 1920
- ✓ After World War I
- ✓ (With the) 19th Amendment

Question 103

What was the Great Depression?

- ✓ Longest economic recession in modern history

Question 104

When did the Great Depression start?

- ✓ The Great Crash (1929)
- ✓ Stock market crash of 1929

Question 105

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

- ✓ (Franklin) Roosevelt

Question 106

Why did the United States enter World War II?

- ✓ (Bombing of) Pearl Harbor
- ✓ Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor
- ✓ To support the Allied Powers (England, France, and Russia)
- ✓ To oppose the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan)

Question 107

Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one.

- ✓ General during World War II
- ✓ President at the end of (during) the Korean War
- ✓ 34th president of the United States
- ✓ Signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 (created the Interstate System)

Question 108

Who was the United States' main rival during the Cold War?

- ✓ Soviet Union
- ✓ USSR
- ✓ Russia

Question 109

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

- ✓ Communism
- ✓ Nuclear war

Question 110

Why did the United States enter the Korean War?

- ✓ To stop the spread of communism

Question 111

Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War?

- ✓ To stop the spread of communism

Question 112

What did the civil rights movement do?

- ✓ Fought to end racial discrimination

Question 113

Martin Luther King, Jr. is famous for many things. Name one.

- ✓ Fought for civil rights
- ✓ Worked for equality for all Americans
- ✓ Worked to ensure that people would "not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character"

Question 114

Why did the United States enter the Persian Gulf War?

- ✓ To force the Iraqi military from Kuwait

Question 115

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

- ✓ Terrorists attacked the United States
- ✓ Terrorists took over two planes and crashed them into the World Trade Center in New York City
- ✓ Terrorists took over a plane and crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia
- ✓ Terrorists took over a plane originally aimed at Washington, D.C., and crashed in a field in Pennsylvania

Question 116

Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

- ✓ (Global) War on Terror
- ✓ War in Afghanistan
- ✓ War in Iraq

Question 117

Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

- ✓ Apache
- ✓ Blackfeet
- ✓ Cayuga
- ✓ Cherokee
- ✓ Cheyenne
- ✓ Chippewa
- ✓ Choctaw
- ✓ Creek
- ✓ Crow
- ✓ Hopi
- ✓ Huron
- ✓ Inupiat
- ✓ Lakota
- ✓ Mohawk
- ✓ Mohegan
- ✓ Navajo
- ✓ Oneida
- ✓ Onondaga
- ✓ Pueblo
- ✓ Seminole
- ✓ Seneca
- ✓ Shawnee
- ✓ Sioux
- ✓ Teton
- ✓ Tuscarora

Question 118

Name one example of an American innovation.

- ✓ Light bulb
- ✓ Automobile (cars, internal combustion engine)
- ✓ Skyscrapers
- ✓ Airplane
- ✓ Assembly line
- ✓ Landing on the moon
- ✓ Integrated circuit (IC)

Symbols and Holidays

A: SYMBOLS**Question 119**

What is the capital of the United States?

- ✓ Washington, D.C.

Question 120

Where is the Statue of Liberty?

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

Question 121

Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

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

Question 122

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 123

What is the name of the national anthem?

- ✓ The Star-Spangled Banner

Question 124

The Nation's first motto was "E Pluribus Unum." What does that mean?

- ✓ Out of many, one
- ✓ We all become one

B: HOLIDAYS

Question 125

What is Independence Day?

- ✓ A holiday to celebrate U.S. independence (from Britain)
- ✓ The country's birthday

Question 126

Name three national U.S. holidays.

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

Question 127

What is Memorial Day?

- ✓ A holiday to honor soldiers who died in military service

Question 128

What is Veterans Day?

- ✓ A holiday to honor people in the (U.S.) military
- ✓ A holiday to honor people who have served (in the U.S. military)

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