

100 CIVIC EDUCATION QUESTIONS FROM THE 2008 NATURALIZATION TEST

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? *

- Charles Schumer

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.

- Andrew Garbarino

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? *

- * Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
- * Joe Biden
- * Biden

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

- Kamala D. Harris
- * Kamala Harris
- * Harris

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?

- 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?

- Kathy Hochul

44. What is the capital of your state? *

- Albany

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

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

- Mike Johnson

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 religion
- 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
- Juneteenth
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas