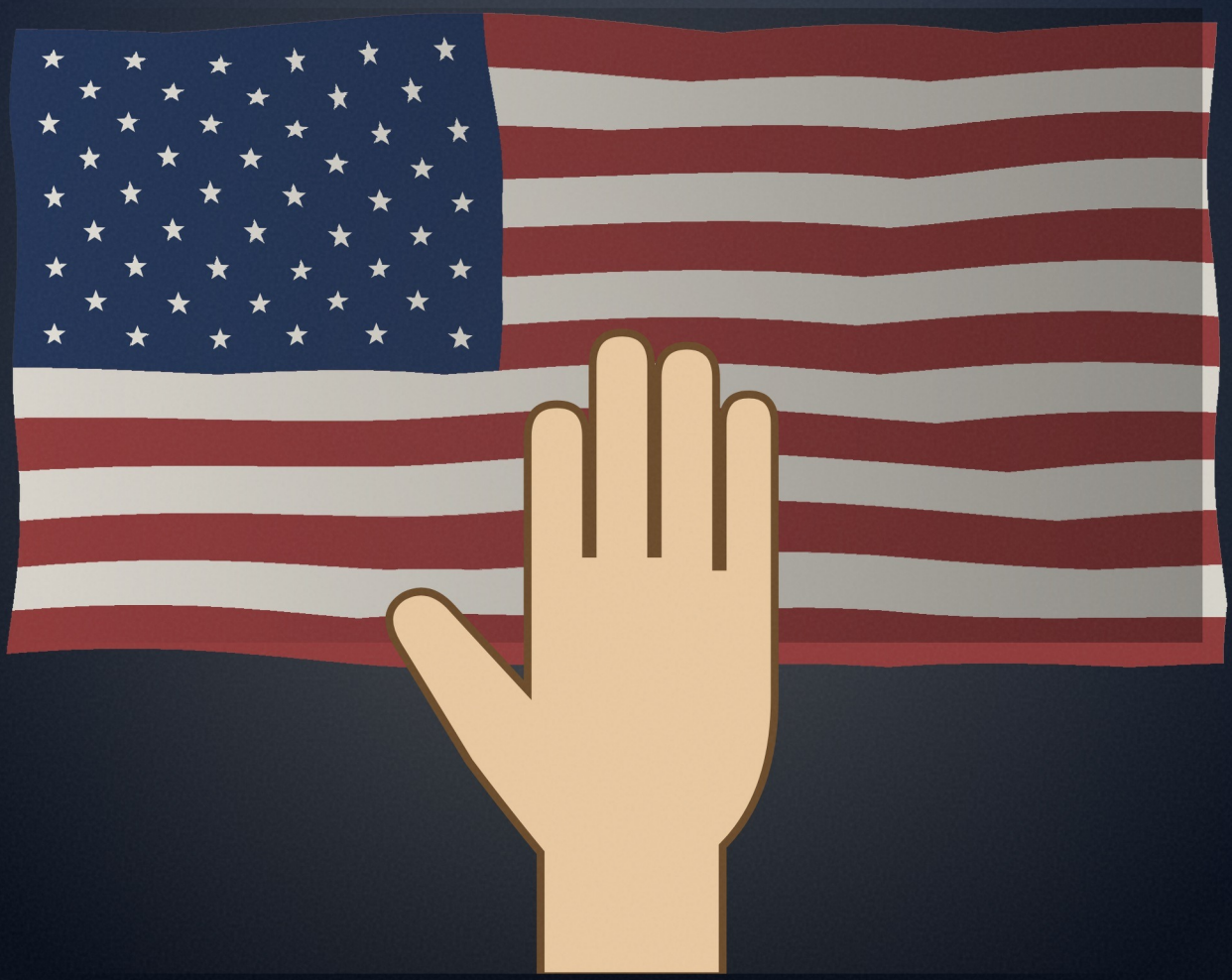
A STUDY GUIDE FOR THE 2025 CIVICS TEST

THE U.S. CITIZENSHIP TEST

in Plain English



128 QUESTIONS | MEMORY TIPS | PRACTICE TESTS | FLASHCARDS

All 128 Official Civics Questions for the 2025 Test, Explained Simply, with Practice Tests and Flashcards

ANDREW DOMINGUEZ

TRINFINITY Enterprises

The U.S. Citizenship Test in Plain English

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This book is a study guide. It is not legal advice. Immigration rules, test questions, and answers can change. Everything in this book was checked against official USCIS documents in October 2026. Before your interview, check uscis.gov for current information, including uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for answers that change. For advice about your own case, talk to a qualified immigration attorney or a recognized legal service provider.

Questions and corrections: andrew@trinfinityenterprises.com

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Introduction

You are getting ready to become a citizen of the United States. That is a big step, and the civics test is one part of it. This book is here to help you pass that test and to understand what the answers mean.

The government agency that gives the test is U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). USCIS publishes the official list of civics questions and answers. Every question and every official answer in this book is copied word for word from that list. I did not change them. What I added are plain-English explanations and memory tips, so the answers make sense and stick in your head.

Which test will you take?

USCIS gives two versions of the civics test. The version you take depends on the date you filed Form N-400, the Application for Naturalization.

You filed Form N-400	You take	Questions to study	Questions asked	Correct answers to pass
Before October 20, 2025	2008 civics test	100	10	6
On or after October 20, 2025	2025 civics test	128	20	12

This book covers the 2025 civics test, the one with 128 questions. If you filed before October 20, 2025, you take the older 2008 test instead. Get the 2008 study list free from USCIS at uscis.gov/citizenship. Much of what you learn here will still help you, but study from the 2008 list.

How the 2025 civics test works

The civics test is an oral test. That means the officer asks the questions out loud, and you answer out loud. There is no paper test and no multiple choice.

- The officer asks you up to 20 questions from the list of 128.
- You need 12 correct answers to pass.
- The officer stops asking once you get 12 right. The officer also stops if you miss 9, because then you can no longer reach 12.
- You only need to give one answer to most questions. If a question asks for two or three things, give two or three.
- You can give the answer in your own words if it means the same thing. USCIS calls this an "alternative phrasing" of the correct answer.

Tip: USCIS says there may be other correct answers to some questions, but it encourages you to use the answers on its list. Stick with the official answers in this book. They are the safest answers to give.

The 65/20 questions

If you are 65 or older and have lived in the United States as a lawful permanent resident (a green card holder) for 20 years or more, you get special consideration. The age and the years both count as of the day you filed your application.

- You study only 20 questions. USCIS marks them with an asterisk. In this book they carry the label **65/20**.
- The officer asks you 10 of those 20 questions.
- You need 6 correct answers to pass.
- You may take the civics test in the language of your choice, using an interpreter.

Chapter 11 lists all 20 of these questions in one place.

Answers that change

A few answers depend on who holds an office right now, or on where you live. Examples are the President, the Speaker of the House, your senators, and your governor. USCIS says you must answer with the name of the person serving at the time of your interview.

I did not print names for these questions, because names go out of date. Instead you will find a blank line. Fill it in yourself, and check it again close to your interview date.

> **Caution:** Check uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates before your interview. That USCIS page lists the current answers for questions that change because of elections or appointments.

How to use this book

1. Read Chapter 1 first, so you know what happens at the interview.
2. Work through Chapters 2 through 10 a few questions at a time. Read the official answer, then the explanation, then the memory tip.
3. Pick one official answer for each question and practice saying it out loud. You only need one.
4. Fill in every blank for the questions whose answers change.
5. Use the flashcard pages in Chapter 14 to quiz yourself, or have a friend quiz you.
6. Take the practice tests in Chapter 13. Count your correct answers. Keep going until you pass each one with room to spare.
7. Study the reading and writing words in Chapter 12 for the English part of the test.

> **Tip:** Study out loud. The real test is spoken, so practice hearing the question and saying the answer. Ten or fifteen minutes a day works better than a long cram session the night before.

A few words before you start

This book is not legal advice, and it is not connected to USCIS or any other government agency. Rules and answers can change. If you have questions about your own case, check uscis.gov or talk to a qualified immigration attorney or a recognized legal service provider.

I checked everything in this book against the official USCIS documents in October 2026. If something has changed since then, follow USCIS.

Chapter 1: The Interview and the Test

Knowing what will happen at your interview takes a lot of the fear out of it. This chapter walks through the parts of the naturalization test and what happens if you miss one. It is based on the USCIS Policy Manual, which is the rulebook USCIS officers follow.

The two parts of the test

The naturalization test has two parts:

- **English.** You show that you can read, write, speak, and understand basic English.
- **Civics.** You show that you know the basics of U.S. history and government. This is the 128-question test this book covers.

Both happen during your naturalization interview with a USCIS officer.

The speaking test

There is no separate speaking quiz. The officer judges your spoken English from how you answer the questions in your interview. Most of those questions are about your application, Form N-400.

You do not need to understand every word. You pass if you generally understand the questions and give answers that make sense. You may ask the officer to repeat a question or say it a different way. Small mistakes in pronunciation and grammar are allowed.

> **Tip:** Practice talking about your own N-400 answers in English before your interview: where you live, where you work, your trips outside the country, and your family. That is what the speaking test is really about.

The reading test

The officer shows you a sentence to read out loud. You get up to three tries with three different sentences. You pass as soon as you read one sentence correctly.

Reading correctly means you read all the important words, without long pauses, so the officer understands the sentence. You can skip small words or make pronunciation mistakes, as long as the meaning comes through.

The writing test

The officer reads a sentence out loud, and you write it down. Again you get up to three sentences, and you pass as soon as you write one the officer can understand.

- Spelling, capital letters, and punctuation mistakes are OK if the officer can still understand the sentence.
- You may write numbers as words or as digits.
- Do not abbreviate. Write "United States," not "U.S.," unless the officer says an abbreviation is OK.

The words used in the reading and writing tests come from two official USCIS word lists. Chapter 12 has both lists.

The civics test

The officer asks you questions out loud from the list of 128, and you answer out loud. You need 12 right out of up to 20. The officer stops as soon as you reach 12 correct, or once you miss 9.

The officer is expected to use what USCIS calls "due consideration." That means the officer may think about your age, background, education, and time in the United States when choosing and wording questions and judging your answers.

If you do not pass a part

You get two chances to pass each part of the test.

1. If you fail any part at your first interview, USCIS schedules a second interview, between 60 and 90 days later.
2. At the second interview, you only retake the part you failed. For example, if you passed everything except writing, you only take the writing test again.
3. The officer uses different test questions and sentences the second time.
4. If you fail the same part a second time, USCIS denies the application.

Caution: Missing your second interview, or refusing to answer test questions, counts as failing. If you cannot make your appointment, contact USCIS before the date.

Exceptions to the English test

Some people do not have to take the English test because of their age and how long they have been a lawful permanent resident. They still take the civics test, and they may take it in their own language with an interpreter.

Age when you filed	Years as a lawful permanent resident	English test	Civics test
50 or older	At least 20	Not required	Required, in your language if you choose
55 or older	At least 15	Not required	Required, in your language if you choose
65 or older	At least 20	Not required	Required, but only from the 20 special questions (see Chapter 11)

People with a medical disability that keeps them from meeting these requirements may ask to be excused from the English test, the civics test, or both. That request uses Form N-648. If you think this applies to you, read the USCIS instructions for that form or ask a qualified legal provider.

On the day

- Arrive early and bring your appointment notice and whatever documents it lists.
- Listen carefully. If you do not understand, ask the officer to repeat or rephrase.

- Answer in short, clear words. One correct answer is enough for most civics questions.
- Stay calm. The officer is not trying to trick you.

At the end of the interview, the officer gives you a written record of your results (Form N-652, Naturalization Interview Results).

Quick checklist

- I know which test version I take, based on my N-400 filing date.
- I can talk about my own N-400 answers in English.
- I have studied the reading and writing word lists in Chapter 12.
- I have filled in all the "answers that change" blanks and checked them at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.
- I have passed every practice test in Chapter 13.

Chapter 2: Principles of American Government

This chapter covers the big ideas behind the American government: what kind of government it is, the Constitution, and the ideas in the Declaration of Independence. These are the first 15 questions on the USCIS list, in the official section called American Government, Part A: Principles of American Government.

Many of these ideas show up again later in the book. Learn them well here and the rest gets easier.

Question 1

What is the form of government of the United States?

Official USCIS answers:

- Republic
- Constitution-based federal republic
- Representative democracy

What it means: In a republic, the people choose leaders to make decisions for them. Americans do not vote on every law themselves. They elect members of Congress, a president, governors, and others to represent them. That is why it is also called a representative democracy. "Federal" means power is shared between one national government and the state governments. "Constitution-based" means the U.S. Constitution sets the rules.

Memory tip: *Think of the Pledge of Allegiance: "and to the Republic for which it stands." The answer is right there: Republic.*

Question 2 **65/20**

What is the supreme law of the land?

Official USCIS answer:

- (U.S.) Constitution

What it means: The Constitution is the highest law in the country. No federal law, state law, or local law can go against it. Article VI of the Constitution says this directly. It calls the Constitution "the supreme Law of the Land." If a law conflicts with the Constitution, the courts can strike that law down.

Memory tip: *Supreme means highest. The highest law is the Constitution.*

Question 3

Name one thing the U.S. Constitution does.

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The Constitution is like the instruction manual for the national government. It creates the government, divides it into three branches, says what each branch can and cannot do, and protects the rights of the people. It was written in 1787 and is still in use today.

Memory tip: *The Constitution builds the house (forms the government), draws the rooms (defines the parts), sets the house rules (defines powers), and locks the doors to protect the people inside (protects rights).*

Question 4

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

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The first three words of the Constitution are "We the People." They mean the power of the government comes from the people, not from a king. The people agree to be governed, and the government works for them. "Popular sovereignty" is a fancy way of saying the people hold the power. "Consent of the governed" means the government gets its authority because the people agree to it.

Memory tip: *We the People means the people are the boss. The easiest answer to remember is "self-government."*

Question 5

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

Official USCIS answers:

- Amendments
- The amendment process

What it means: An amendment is a change or addition to the Constitution. Making one is hard on purpose. Usually two-thirds of both houses of Congress must approve it, and then three-fourths of the states must approve it, or ratify it. Article V of the Constitution lays out this process. This keeps the Constitution from being changed on a whim.

Memory tip: *To amend means to change. Changes to the Constitution are called amendments.*

Question 6

What does the Bill of Rights protect?

Official USCIS answers:

- (The basic) rights of Americans

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

What it means: The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments to the Constitution. They were added in 1791. They protect basic freedoms such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to a fair trial, and protection from unreasonable searches. Notice that the official answer includes people living in the United States, not only citizens. Many of these rights protect everyone here.

Memory tip: *A bill of rights is a list of rights. The Bill of Rights protects the basic rights of Americans.*

Question 7 **65/20**

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

Official USCIS answer:

- Twenty-seven (27)

What it means: Since 1789, Congress has sent many proposed amendments to the states, but only 27 have been ratified. The first ten are the Bill of Rights. The most recent, the 27th Amendment, was ratified in 1992. It deals with when pay raises for members of Congress can take effect.

Memory tip: *Ten in the Bill of Rights, plus 17 more, makes 27. Or think of the amendments as 27 changes in over 230 years: not many at all.*

Question 8

Why is the Declaration of Independence important?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. It told the world that the 13 American colonies were breaking away from Great Britain. It also stated an idea that shaped the country: that all people are created equal and have rights that no government gives and no government can take away. "Inherent" rights are rights you are born with.

Memory tip: *Independence means free. The Declaration said America is free, and all people are created equal.*

Question 9

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

Official USCIS answer:

- Declaration of Independence

What it means: The Declaration of Independence announced that the colonies were now free and independent states. The war with Britain went on for years after that, but the Declaration is the document that said it.

Memory tip: *The name says it: Declaration of Independence. It declared the colonies independent.*

Question 10

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

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: These two founding documents share several big ideas. Equality means all people are equal under the law. Liberty means freedom. Natural rights are rights people are born with. Limited government means the government only has the powers the people give it. Self-government means the people rule. A social contract is the idea that people agree to form a government to protect their rights. You need to name two.

Memory tip: *The two shortest answers are the easiest pair: "Equality and liberty."*

Question 11

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

Official USCIS answer:

- Declaration of Independence

What it means: The Declaration of Independence says people have certain rights, "that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." This is one of the most famous lines in American history. Note that this phrase is in the Declaration, not in the Constitution. People mix those two up often.

Memory tip: *Life, Liberty, and Happiness were declared in 1776. Declaration.*

Question 12 **65/20**

What is the economic system of the United States?

Official USCIS answers:

- Capitalism
- Free market economy

What it means: Capitalism is an economic system where people and private businesses own most property and decide what to make and sell. Prices are mostly set by buying and selling in the market. That is what "free market economy" means. The government still makes some rules for the economy, but most business decisions are made by private owners.

Memory tip: *Free country, free market. Business owners put their own money, called capital, to work. That is capitalism.*

Question 13
What is the rule of law?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The rule of law means the law applies to everyone equally. Ordinary people, leaders, and the government itself must all follow the law. No one, not even the President, is above it.

Memory tip: *Rule of law: the law rules everyone. "No one is above the law" is the easiest answer to say.*

Question 14
Many documents influenced the U.S. Constitution. Name one.

Official USCIS answers:

- 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

What it means: The writers of the Constitution learned from earlier documents. The Mayflower Compact (1620) was an early agreement by settlers to govern themselves. The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut (1639) was an early written plan of government. The Virginia Declaration of Rights (1776) listed rights that later shaped the Bill of Rights. The Articles of Confederation was the first national plan of government, used before the Constitution. The Federalist Papers and Anti-Federalist Papers were essays arguing for and against the new Constitution. In 1988, Congress passed a resolution recognizing the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy to the development of the United States.

Memory tip: *Pick the one you already know from this book: the Declaration of Independence. You only need one.*

Question 15

There are three branches of government. Why?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The writers of the Constitution did not want any one person or group to have too much power. So they split the government into three branches: one makes laws, one carries out laws, and one explains laws. Each branch can check, or limit, the other two. For example, Congress passes laws, but the President can veto them, and the courts can rule that a law goes against the Constitution.

Memory tip: *Three legs on a stool. If one leg grows too long, the stool tips. Three branches keep any one part from becoming too powerful.*

Chapter 3: The Three Branches and Congress

This chapter starts the longest section on the USCIS list, American Government, Part B: System of Government. It runs from question 16 to question 62, so I split it into three chapters. This one covers the three branches and Congress, the branch that writes the laws.

Two of these questions have answers that depend on where you live. Fill in those blanks before your interview.

Question 16

Name the three branches of government.

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The legislative branch is Congress. It makes the laws. The executive branch is led by the President. It carries out and enforces the laws. The judicial branch is the courts. They explain the laws and decide if laws follow the Constitution.

Memory tip: *L-E-J: Legislative makes laws, Executive enforces them, Judicial judges them. Or the simple version: Congress, President, courts.*

Question 17

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

Official USCIS answer:

- Executive branch

What it means: The President leads the executive branch, the part of government that carries out the laws. The Vice President, the Cabinet, and the federal departments and agencies are all part of this branch too.

Memory tip: *An executive is a boss who runs things. The President runs the executive branch.*

Question 18

What part of the federal government writes laws?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: Congress is the lawmaking part of the federal government. A legislature is a group of people elected to make laws. Congress is the national legislature, and it makes up the legislative branch.

Memory tip: *Legislate means to make laws. The legislative branch, Congress, writes the laws.*

Question 19

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

Official USCIS answer:

- Senate and House (of Representatives)

What it means: Congress has two parts, called chambers or houses. The Senate has 100 members, two from each state. The House of Representatives has 435 voting members, divided among the states by population. A bill must pass both before it can go to the President.

Memory tip: *Senate and House. Two parts, like two halves of the U.S. Capitol building. The Senate meets on one side and the House on the other.*

Question 20 **65/20**

Name one power of the U.S. Congress.

Official USCIS answers:

- Writes laws
- Declares war
- Makes the federal budget

What it means: Article I of the Constitution gives Congress its powers. Writing laws is the main one. Only Congress can declare war. Congress also controls the government's money, so it passes the federal budget and decides how tax money is spent.

Memory tip: *Congress has the pen (writes laws), the purse (makes the budget), and the power to declare war.*

Question 21

How many U.S. senators are there?

Official USCIS answer:

- One hundred (100)

What it means: Each of the 50 states has two senators. 50 times 2 equals 100.

Memory tip: *50 states, 2 senators each, 100 senators.*

Question 22

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

Official USCIS answer:

- Six (6) years

What it means: Senators serve six-year terms. The terms are staggered, which means about one-third of the Senate is up for election every two years. That way, the whole Senate never changes at once.

Memory tip: *The word "Senate" has six letters: S-E-N-A-T-E. Six letters, six years.*

Question 23

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

Official USCIS answer:

- 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.]

My answer: _____

This answer can change. Check uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates close to your interview date. Date I checked:

_____

What it means: Every state has two U.S. senators, and you only need to name one of them. The answer depends on the state where you live. If you live in Washington, D.C. or a U.S. territory, the correct answer is that you have no U.S. senators.

Memory tip: *Look up your senators at senate.gov by choosing your state. Write one name on the blank line and say it out loud a few times.*

Question 24

How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?

Official USCIS answer:

- Four hundred thirty-five (435)

What it means: The House of Representatives has 435 voting members. A 1929 law fixed the number at 435. It went up to 437 for a short time after Alaska and Hawaii became states in 1959, then went back to 435 after the 1960 census. Washington, D.C. and the U.S. territories also send delegates to the House, but they do not vote on final passage of laws.

Memory tip: *Say it like a time on the clock: 4:35. Four thirty-five voting members.*

Question 25

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

Official USCIS answer:

- Two (2) years

What it means: Members of the House serve two-year terms. All 435 seats are up for election every two years, in even-numbered years.

Memory tip: *Picture a house with two floors. House, two years.*

Question 26

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

Official USCIS answer:

- To more closely follow public opinion

What it means: Because House members face the voters every two years, they have to keep up with what the people in their district want. Senators, with six-year terms, have more time between elections. The writers of the Constitution wanted one chamber to respond quickly to public opinion and the other to be steadier.

Memory tip: *Short term, short leash. A two-year term keeps representatives close to public opinion.*

Question 27

How many senators does each state have?

Official USCIS answer:

- Two (2)

What it means: Every state gets exactly two senators, no matter how big or small its population is. A large state and a small state have the same number of senators.

Memory tip: *Two senators per state. Two, always two.*

Question 28

Why does each state have two senators?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: When the Constitution was being written in 1787, large states wanted representation based on population, and small states wanted equal representation. The Great Compromise, also called the Connecticut Compromise, gave them both. The House is based on population, and the Senate gives every state two seats. That protects small states.

Memory tip: *Two senators each keeps it fair for small states. The deal that did it was the Great Compromise.*

Question 29

Name your U.S. representative.

Official USCIS answer:

- 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.]

My answer: _____

This answer can change. Check uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates close to your interview date. Date I checked:

_____

What it means: Your U.S. representative is the member of the House who represents your congressional district. The answer depends on your address. Residents of territories may name their nonvoting Delegate or Resident Commissioner, or say the territory has no voting representative in Congress.

Memory tip: *Find your representative at house.gov by entering your ZIP code. Write the name on the blank line.*

Question 30 65/20

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

Official USCIS answer:

- Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

My answer: _____

This answer can change. Check uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates close to your interview date. Date I checked:

_____

What it means: The Speaker of the House leads the House of Representatives. The members of the House elect the Speaker. The Speaker is second in line to become President, after the Vice President. Because the Speaker can change, USCIS posts the current name online.

Memory tip: *The Speaker speaks for the House. Look up the current name at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.*

Question 31

Who does a U.S. senator represent?

Official USCIS answers:

- Citizens of their state
- People of their state

What it means: Each senator represents the whole state, not just one part of it. So a senator works for all the people of that state.

Memory tip: *Senator, state. Both start with S.*

Question 32

Who elects U.S. senators?

Official USCIS answer:

- Citizens from their state

What it means: Since the 17th Amendment was ratified in 1913, the voters of each state elect their senators directly. Before that, state legislatures chose senators.

Memory tip: *The people of the state vote for the senators of the state.*

Question 33

Who does a member of the House of Representatives represent?

Official USCIS answers:

- Citizens in their (congressional) district
- Citizens in their district
- People from their (congressional) district
- People in their district

What it means: Each state is divided into congressional districts. Each district elects one member of the House. That representative works for the people in that district.

Memory tip: *Representative, district. A senator has the whole state. A representative has one district.*

Question 34

Who elects members of the House of Representatives?

Official USCIS answer:

- Citizens from their (congressional) district

What it means: The voters who live in a congressional district elect their representative.

Memory tip: *Same pattern as senators, smaller area. The people of the district vote for the representative of the district.*

Question 35

Some states have more representatives than other states. Why?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: House seats are divided among the states by population. Every ten years, the census counts everyone in the country. States with more people get more representatives. Every state gets at least one.

Memory tip: *More people, more representatives. Population decides.*

Chapter 4: The President and the Executive Branch

This chapter continues the official section American Government, Part B: System of Government. It covers questions 36 to 49: the President, the Vice President, the Cabinet, and the Electoral College.

Two of these questions ask for names that change after elections. Fill in those blanks and check them close to your interview.

Question 36 **65/20**

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

Official USCIS answer:

- Four (4) years

What it means: A presidential term is four years. Presidential elections are held every four years, in November. The President takes office the following January.

Memory tip: *Four years, the same as the Summer Olympics. A new election every four years.*

Question 37

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

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: George Washington chose to step down after two terms, and most presidents followed his example. Franklin Roosevelt broke that pattern and was elected four times. Afterward, the 22nd Amendment, ratified in 1951, made the two-term limit the law. The idea is to keep any one president from holding power too long.

Memory tip: *22nd Amendment, two terms. Two and two: 22 means two terms.*

Question 38 **65/20**

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

Official USCIS answer:

- Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the President of the United States.

My answer: _____

This answer can change. Check uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates close to your interview date. Date I checked:

_____

What it means: The President is the head of the executive branch, the head of state, and Commander in Chief of the military. Because the President changes after elections, USCIS posts the current name online. You must answer with the name of the President serving on the day of your interview.

Memory tip: *Check the current name at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates and write it on the blank line.*

Question 39 65/20

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

Official USCIS answer:

- Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Vice President of the United States.

My answer: _____

This answer can change. Check uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates close to your interview date. Date I checked:

_____

What it means: The Vice President is first in line to become President. The Vice President is also the President of the Senate and may cast a tie-breaking vote there. USCIS posts the current name online.

Memory tip: *Check the current name at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates and write it on the blank line.*

Question 40

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

Official USCIS answer:

- The Vice President (of the United States)

What it means: If the President dies, resigns, or is removed from office, the Vice President becomes President. The Constitution and the 25th Amendment set this out. After the Vice President, the line of succession continues with the Speaker of the House.

Memory tip: *Vice means "in place of." The Vice President steps in, in place of the President.*

Question 41

Name one power of the president.

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The President has many jobs. The President signs bills to make them law or vetoes, meaning rejects, them. The President enforces the laws, commands the military, leads relations with other countries as chief diplomat, and appoints federal judges with the approval of the Senate. You only need to name one power.

Memory tip: *The easiest one to say: "Signs bills into law."*

Question 42

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

Official USCIS answer:

- The President (of the United States)

What it means: The Constitution makes the President the Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, which today means all the armed forces. This keeps the military under the control of an elected civilian leader.

Memory tip: *The chief of the commanders is the President.*

Question 43

Who signs bills to become laws?

Official USCIS answer:

- The President (of the United States)

What it means: After Congress passes a bill, it goes to the President. When the President signs it, the bill becomes law. In some cases a bill can become law without the President's signature, but the official answer is the President.

Memory tip: *Congress writes the bill. The President signs it.*

Question 44 **65/20**

Who vetoes bills?

Official USCIS answer:

- The President (of the United States)

What it means: A veto is when the President refuses to sign a bill and sends it back to Congress. Congress can still pass the bill over the veto, but it takes a two-thirds vote in both the Senate and the House. That is called overriding a veto.

Memory tip: *Veto comes from Latin for "I forbid." The President is the one who can say no.*

Question 45

Who appoints federal judges?

Official USCIS answer:

- The President (of the United States)

What it means: The President nominates, or chooses, federal judges, including Supreme Court justices. The Senate must then approve them. This is one example of checks and balances.

Memory tip: *The President picks the judges. The Senate says yes or no.*

Question 46

The executive branch has many parts. Name one.

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The executive branch is large. It includes the President, the Vice President, the Cabinet, and many federal departments and agencies, such as the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security. USCIS itself is an agency in the Department of Homeland Security.

Memory tip: *Say "the Cabinet." One word, easy to remember.*

Question 47

What does the President's Cabinet do?

Official USCIS answer:

- Advises the President (of the United States)

What it means: The Cabinet is a group of top advisers to the President. Most of them lead the big federal departments. They advise the President on their areas, like money, defense, or foreign affairs.

Memory tip: *A cabinet holds things the President needs. The Cabinet holds advice.*

Question 48

What are two Cabinet-level positions?

Official USCIS answers:

- Attorney General
- Secretary of Agriculture
- Secretary of Commerce
- 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
- Secretary of War (Defense)
- Vice-President
- Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
- Administrator of the Small Business Administration
- Director of the Central Intelligence Agency
- Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- Director of National Intelligence
- United States Trade Representative

What it means: Cabinet members lead the major departments of the executive branch. Some other top officials also hold Cabinet-level rank. You need to name two from the official list. About the name "Secretary of War (Defense)": in September 2025, an executive order allowed the Department of Defense and its Secretary to also use the names Department of War and Secretary of War. The USCIS list shows both names, so either one is fine.

Memory tip: *Pick two you can picture: Secretary of State (deals with other countries) and Secretary of the Treasury (deals with money). Or say "Vice President." The Vice President is on the list too.*

Question 49
Why is the Electoral College important?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: Americans do not vote for the President directly. They vote for electors in their state. Those electors make up the Electoral College, and they cast the votes that actually elect the President. There are 538 electors. A candidate needs a majority, at least 270, to win. The writers of the Constitution created this system as a middle ground between letting the people vote directly and letting Congress choose.

Memory tip: *The Electoral College decides who is elected president. It is not a school. It is the group of electors who cast the final votes.*

Chapter 5: The Courts and the States

This chapter finishes the official section American Government, Part B: System of Government. It covers questions 50 to 62: the judicial branch, the Supreme Court, and how power is divided between the federal government and the states.

Three questions here have answers that change: the Chief Justice, your governor, and your state capital. Fill in those blanks.

Question 50
What is one part of the judicial branch?

Official USCIS answers:

- Supreme Court
- Federal Courts

What it means: The judicial branch is the system of federal courts. The Supreme Court is at the top. Below it are federal courts of appeals and federal district courts, where most federal cases start.

Memory tip: *Judicial sounds like judge. Judges work in courts, and the top court is the Supreme Court.*

Question 51
What does the judicial branch do?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: Courts decide what laws mean and settle disagreements about them. They can also decide whether a law goes against the Constitution. When the Supreme Court rules that a law is unconstitutional, that law can no longer be enforced. This power is called judicial review.

Memory tip: *Courts explain laws. "Explains laws" is short and easy to say.*

Question 52 65/20
What is the highest court in the United States?

Official USCIS answer:

- Supreme Court

What it means: The Supreme Court is the highest court in the country. Its decisions are final, and every other court in the country must follow them. It meets in Washington, D.C.

Memory tip: *Supreme means highest. The supreme law is the Constitution (question 2). The highest court is the Supreme Court.*

Question 53
How many seats are on the Supreme Court?

Official USCIS answer:

- Nine (9)

What it means: The Supreme Court has nine seats: one Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices. The Constitution does not set the number. Congress sets it by law, and the number has been nine since 1869.

Memory tip: *Nine justices, like nine players on a baseball field.*

Question 54
How many Supreme Court justices are usually needed to decide a case?

Official USCIS answer:

- Five (5)

What it means: The Supreme Court decides cases by majority vote. With nine justices, a majority is five. A 5-to-4 decision is enough to decide a case.

Memory tip: *Five out of nine is more than half. Majority wins.*

Question 55
How long do Supreme Court justices serve?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: Federal judges, including Supreme Court justices, serve "during good Behaviour," in the words of Article III of the Constitution. In practice, this means they serve for life unless they retire, resign, or are removed by Congress through impeachment.

Memory tip: *Justices are appointed for life. Say "for life."*

Question 56
Supreme Court justices serve for life. Why?

Official USCIS answers:

- To be independent (of politics)

- To limit outside (political) influence

What it means: Because justices do not have to run for re-election or worry about losing their jobs, they can decide cases based on the law instead of on politics or public pressure. That keeps the courts independent.

Memory tip: *No election to win, no boss to please. Lifetime terms keep justices independent.*

Question 57

Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

Official USCIS answer:

- Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Chief Justice of the United States.

My answer: _____

This answer can change. Check uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates close to your interview date. Date I checked:

_____

What it means: The Chief Justice leads the Supreme Court and the federal court system. The Chief Justice also presides over the Senate trial if a President is impeached. Because this person can change, USCIS posts the current name online.

Memory tip: *Check the current name at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates and write it on the blank line.*

Question 58

Name one power that is only for the federal government.

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: Some powers belong only to the national government, so the country speaks with one voice. States cannot print their own money, declare war, or make treaties with other countries, and they cannot keep their own armies without the consent of Congress.

Memory tip: *Money and war belong to the nation. "Print paper money" is the easiest to say.*

Question 59

Name one power that is only for the states.

Official USCIS answers:

- Provide schooling and education
- Provide protection (police)

- Provide safety (fire departments)
- Give a driver's license
- Approve zoning and land use

What it means: Other powers belong to the states. States run public schools, police and fire departments, issue driver's licenses, and decide zoning, meaning how land in an area can be used.

Memory tip: *Think of what you deal with close to home: your child's school and your driver's license. Those come from the state.*

Question 60

What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment?

Official USCIS answer:

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

What it means: The 10th Amendment is the last amendment in the Bill of Rights. It says that any power the Constitution does not give to the federal government, and does not forbid to the states, belongs to the states or to the people. It limits the federal government to the powers listed in the Constitution.

Memory tip: *Ten is the last in the Bill of Rights, and it holds the leftovers: whatever power is left over belongs to the states or the people.*

Question 61 **65/20**

Who is the governor of your state now?

Official USCIS answer:

- Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. does not have a governor.]

My answer: _____

This answer can change. Check uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates close to your interview date. Date I checked:

_____

What it means: The governor is the head of a state's executive branch, much like the President is for the nation. The answer depends on your state. If you live in Washington, D.C., the correct answer is that D.C. does not have a governor.

Memory tip: *Look up your governor on your state's official website (it usually ends in .gov). Write the name on the blank line.*

Question 62

What is the capital of your state?

Official USCIS answer:

- 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.]

My answer: _____

This answer can change. Check uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates close to your interview date. Date I checked:

_____

What it means: Each state has a capital city where its government meets. The answer depends on your state. Washington, D.C. 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 their territory.

Memory tip: *Write your state capital on the blank line. If you are not sure, your state's official website will say.*

Chapter 6: Rights and Responsibilities

This chapter covers questions 63 to 72, the official section American Government, Part C: Rights and Responsibilities. It covers who can vote, the rights everyone in the country has, the promises new citizens make, and the duties that come with living here.

Question 63

There are four amendments to the U.S. Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

Official USCIS answers:

- 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).

What it means: Four amendments widened voting rights. The 15th Amendment (1870) says the right to vote cannot be denied because of race, which is why the answer says "a male citizen of any race." At that time only men could vote in most places. The 19th Amendment (1920) gave women the right to vote. The 24th Amendment (1964) banned poll taxes, which were fees some places charged people to vote in federal elections. The 26th Amendment (1971) lowered the voting age to 18.

Memory tip: *Pick the easiest: "Citizens 18 and older can vote."*

Question 64

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

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: Only U.S. citizens can vote in federal elections, run for federal office, and serve on a federal jury. These are some of the most important benefits of becoming a citizen.

Memory tip: *Vote, run, serve on a jury: all three are for citizens. That is what you are working toward.*

Question 65

What are three rights of everyone living in the United States?

Official USCIS answers:

- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of speech

- Freedom of assembly
- Freedom to petition the government
- Freedom of religion
- The right to bear arms

What it means: These rights come from the First and Second Amendments in the Bill of Rights. The First Amendment protects freedom of religion, freedom of speech and expression, the freedom to gather peacefully (assembly), and the freedom to ask the government to fix problems (petition). The Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms. Notice the question says "everyone living in the United States," not only citizens. You need to name three.

Memory tip: *Three easy ones in a row: "Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly."*

Question 66 **65/20**

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

Official USCIS answers:

- The United States
- The flag

What it means: The Pledge of Allegiance is a promise of loyalty. It begins: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands." So when you say it, you show loyalty to the flag and to the United States.

Memory tip: *The first words of the Pledge give you both answers: "the Flag of the United States."*

Question 67

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

Official USCIS answers:

- 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

What it means: At the naturalization ceremony, new citizens take the Oath of Allegiance. In it, they give up loyalty to other countries, promise to support and defend the Constitution, obey the laws of the United States, and serve the country in the military or in other important work if the law requires it. You need to name two promises.

Memory tip: *Two short ones: "Obey the laws" and "Defend the Constitution."*

Question 68

How can people become United States citizens?

Official USCIS answers:

- Be born in the United States, under the conditions set by the 14th Amendment
- Naturalize
- Derive citizenship (under conditions set by Congress)

What it means: There are three main ways to become a U.S. citizen. The 14th Amendment says people born in the United States and subject to its jurisdiction are citizens. People born in another country can naturalize, which is the process you are going through now. Some people derive, or receive, citizenship through a parent, under rules set by Congress.

Memory tip: *You are doing one of them right now: naturalize.*

Question 69

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

Official USCIS answers:

- 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

What it means: Civic participation means taking part in community and public life. Voting is the best-known example. Others include running for office, helping a campaign, joining a community group, contacting your elected officials, or writing a letter to the newspaper. You need to name two.

Memory tip: *Two quick ones: "Vote" and "Contact elected officials."*

Question 70

What is one way Americans can serve their country?

Official USCIS answers:

- Vote
- Pay taxes
- Obey the law
- Serve in the military
- Run for office

- Work for local, state, or federal government

What it means: Serving your country is not only military service. Paying taxes, obeying the law, voting, and working in government are all ways Americans serve.

Memory tip: *Something you already do: "Obey the law" or "Pay taxes."*

Question 71

Why is it important to pay federal taxes?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: Federal taxes pay for the work of the national government, like the military, highways, and many other services. Paying them is required by law. The 16th Amendment, ratified in 1913, gave Congress the power to collect an income tax.

Memory tip: *Taxes are "required by law." Short and simple.*

Question 72

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

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The Selective Service System keeps a list of men who could be called to serve if the country ever needed a draft. Federal law requires almost all male U.S. citizens and male immigrants ages 18 through 25 to register. If a draft is ever needed, a complete list helps make it fair.

Memory tip: *Selective Service is "required by law." The same short answer as taxes.*

Chapter 7: The Colonial Period and Independence

This chapter starts the second big part of the USCIS list, American History. It covers questions 73 to 89, the official section American History, Part A: Colonial Period and Independence. You will learn why the colonists came, why they broke away from Britain, and the leaders who founded the country.

Question 73

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

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: People came to the American colonies for many reasons. Some wanted to worship freely. Some were escaping persecution, meaning they were being punished or treated badly for their beliefs. Many wanted land and a better living. Others wanted more say in their government.

Memory tip: *The one-word answer: "Freedom."*

Question 74 **65/20**

Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

Official USCIS answers:

- American Indians
- Native Americans

What it means: Native Americans, also called American Indians, lived in North America for thousands of years before Europeans arrived. There were hundreds of different nations and tribes, each with its own language and way of life.

Memory tip: *Native means "born there." Native Americans were here first.*

Question 75

What group of people was taken and sold as slaves?

Official USCIS answers:

- Africans
- People from Africa

What it means: Millions of Africans were captured, taken across the Atlantic Ocean, and sold into slavery in the Americas. Slavery was legal in the American colonies and later in many states until the 13th Amendment ended it in 1865.

Memory tip: *Answer: "People from Africa."*

Question 76

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

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The American Revolution, also called the Revolutionary War, began in 1775. The colonies won with help from France. The war formally ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783, when Britain recognized American independence.

Memory tip: *Revolution means a big change. The war for independence was the American Revolution.*

Question 77

Name one reason why the Americans declared independence from Britain.

Official USCIS answers:

- 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

What it means: The colonists had many complaints against the British government. Britain taxed the colonies through laws like the Sugar Act, Stamp Act, and Townshend Acts, but the colonists had no representatives in the British Parliament. That led to the famous protest "No taxation without representation." The Boston Massacre (1770), when British soldiers shot colonists, and the Boston Tea Party (1773), when colonists dumped British tea into Boston Harbor, raised the anger higher. Britain answered with harsh laws the colonists called the Intolerable Acts. Britain also made colonists house British soldiers.

Memory tip: *The famous one: "Taxation without representation." Or just "High taxes."*

Question 78 **65/20**

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

Official USCIS answer:

- (Thomas) Jefferson

What it means: Thomas Jefferson of Virginia wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. A committee, including Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, reviewed it, and the Continental Congress made changes before adopting it.

Memory tip: *J for Jefferson, J for July, when the Declaration was adopted.*

Question 79

When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

Official USCIS answer:

- July 4, 1776

What it means: The Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. That is why Americans celebrate Independence Day on the Fourth of July.

Memory tip: *The Fourth of July, 1776. The country's birthday.*

Question 80

The American Revolution had many important events. Name one.

Official USCIS answers:

- (Battle of) Bunker Hill
- Declaration of Independence
- Washington Crossing the Delaware (Battle of Trenton)
- (Battle of) Saratoga
- Valley Forge (Encampment)
- (Battle of) Yorktown (British surrender at Yorktown)

What it means: These were key moments in the war. The Battle of Bunker Hill (1775) was an early battle near Boston. Washington crossed the icy Delaware River on Christmas night in 1776 to win at Trenton. The victory at Saratoga (1777) convinced France to join the American side. Washington's army suffered through a hard winter at Valley Forge (1777 to 1778). The British surrender at Yorktown (1781) was the last major battle.

Memory tip: *Start and finish: Bunker Hill near the start, Yorktown at the end. Say "Yorktown."*

Question 81

There were 13 original states. Name five.

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The 13 original states were the 13 British colonies along the Atlantic coast that declared independence in 1776. You need to name five.

Memory tip: *Pick five you can remember easily, such as New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Georgia, and Pennsylvania. Practice saying the same five every time.*

Question 82

What founding document was written in 1787?

Official USCIS answer:

- (U.S.) Constitution

What it means: The U.S. Constitution was written in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787 at the Constitutional Convention. It was signed on September 17, 1787, and took effect in 1789 after enough states ratified it.

Memory tip: *1776 was the Declaration. 1787 was the Constitution. Eleven years apart.*

Question 83

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

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The Federalist Papers were 85 essays published in New York newspapers in 1787 and 1788 to persuade people to support the new Constitution. They were written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay, and all were signed with the pen name "Publius."

Memory tip: *Hamilton, Madison, Jay. Hamilton is the best known today, so say "Hamilton."*

Question 84
Why were the Federalist Papers important?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: Many people in 1787 were not sure the new Constitution was a good idea. The Federalist Papers explained how it would work and argued for approving it. They helped convince people to support ratification. Judges and scholars still read them today to understand the Constitution.

Memory tip: *They helped people understand the Constitution.*

Question 85
Benjamin Franklin is famous for many things. Name one.

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: Benjamin Franklin was a printer, writer, scientist, and inventor. He invented the lightning rod. In 1775 the Continental Congress made him the first Postmaster General. He helped write the Declaration of Independence and served as a diplomat in France, where he helped win French support for the Revolution.

Memory tip: *Franklin flew a kite in a storm. Say "Inventor."*

Question 86 65/20
George Washington is famous for many things. Name one.

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: George Washington led the Continental Army to victory in the Revolutionary War. He was President of the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Then he was elected the first President of the United States. He is called the "Father of Our Country."

Memory tip: *Washington was first: "First president of the United States."*

Question 87

Thomas Jefferson is famous for many things. Name one.

Official USCIS answers:

- 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

What it means: Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. He was the first Secretary of State and the third President. As President, he made the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, which roughly doubled the size of the country. He also founded the University of Virginia and wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.

Memory tip: *You already know it from question 78: "Writer of the Declaration of Independence."*

Question 88

James Madison is famous for many things. Name one.

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: James Madison played a leading role in writing the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, so he is called the "Father of the Constitution." He co-wrote the Federalist Papers and became the fourth President. He was President during the War of 1812.

Memory tip: *Madison, Constitution. "Father of the Constitution."*

Question 89

Alexander Hamilton is famous for many things. Name one.

Official USCIS answers:

- 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

What it means: Alexander Hamilton served as an aide to General Washington during the Revolution. He was a member of the Continental Congress, co-wrote the Federalist Papers, and became the first Secretary of the Treasury. He helped create the First Bank of the United States.

Memory tip: *Hamilton is on the ten-dollar bill, and he ran the Treasury, which handles the money. "First Secretary of the Treasury."*

Chapter 8: The 1800s

This chapter covers questions 90 to 99, the official section American History, Part B: 1800s. The country grew fast in the 1800s, fought a terrible Civil War, ended slavery, and began the long fight for equal rights.

Question 90

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

Official USCIS answers:

- Louisiana Territory
- Louisiana

What it means: In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from France for about 15 million dollars. It stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and roughly doubled the size of the United States.

Memory tip: *Louisiana has a French sound, and it came from France. Louisiana, 1803.*

Question 91

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

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The United States fought four major wars in the 1800s. The War of 1812 was against Britain. The Mexican-American War (1846 to 1848) was against Mexico. The Civil War (1861 to 1865) was between the North and the South. The Spanish-American War (1898) was against Spain.

Memory tip: *The name with the date in it is the easiest: "War of 1812."*

Question 92

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

Official USCIS answer:

- The Civil War

What it means: The Civil War was fought from 1861 to 1865 between the Union (the North) and the Confederacy, the Southern states that tried to leave the United States. The Union won, and the country stayed together.

Memory tip: *A civil war is a war inside one country. North against South: the Civil War.*

Question 93

The Civil War had many important events. Name one.

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The war began when Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina in April 1861. The Battle of Antietam (1862) was the bloodiest single day of the war. The Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863. The Union won at Gettysburg and Vicksburg in July 1863. Union General William T. Sherman marched across Georgia in 1864. Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Virginia, in April 1865. Days later, President Lincoln was assassinated.

Memory tip: *Beginning and end: Fort Sumter started it, Appomattox ended it. Or say "Emancipation Proclamation," which you also need for question 95.*

Question 94 **65/20**

Abraham Lincoln is famous for many things. Name one.

Official USCIS answers:

- 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

What it means: Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President. He led the country through the Civil War and kept the Union together. He issued the Emancipation Proclamation and gave the Gettysburg Address, a short and famous speech about freedom and equality. He was assassinated in April 1865, shortly after the war ended.

Memory tip: *Lincoln "saved the Union." Or "freed the slaves."*

Question 95

What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

Official USCIS answers:

- Freed the slaves
- Freed slaves in the Confederacy
- Freed slaves in the Confederate states

- Freed slaves in most Southern states

What it means: President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. It declared that enslaved people in the Confederate states that were fighting against the Union were free. It did not end slavery everywhere. The 13th Amendment did that in 1865.

Memory tip: *Emancipate means to set free. The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves.*

Question 96

What U.S. war ended slavery?

Official USCIS answer:

- The Civil War

What it means: The Union victory in the Civil War led to the end of slavery. The 13th Amendment, ratified in December 1865, made slavery illegal everywhere in the United States.

Memory tip: *Same answer as question 92: the Civil War.*

Question 97

What amendment says all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are U.S. citizens?

Official USCIS answer:

- 14th Amendment

What it means: The 14th Amendment was ratified in 1868, after the Civil War. Its first sentence says that all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to its jurisdiction, are citizens. It also promises everyone equal protection of the laws.

Memory tip: *The 14th Amendment makes citizens. You met it already in question 68.*

Question 98

When did all men get the right to vote?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: After the Civil War, during the period called Reconstruction, the 15th Amendment was ratified in 1870. It said the right to vote could not be denied because of race or color, or because a person had once been enslaved. At that time this right applied to men. In practice, many Black men were kept from voting for decades by unfair rules and violence, until laws like the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Memory tip: *Right after the Civil War came the vote for men of every race. The simplest answer: "After the Civil War."*

Question 99

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

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: These leaders fought for women's rights, including the right to vote. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott took part in the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, the first women's rights convention. Stanton helped write its Declaration of Sentiments. Susan B. Anthony worked with Stanton for decades and was arrested for voting in 1872. Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, both born into slavery, spoke out for the rights of women and of Black Americans. Lucy Stone was a leading speaker and organizer for women's rights.

Memory tip: *Susan B. Anthony was on a U.S. dollar coin. Say "Susan B. Anthony."*

Chapter 9: Recent American History

This chapter covers questions 100 to 118, the official section American History, Part C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information. It runs from World War I through the attacks of September 11, 2001, and also covers American Indian tribes and American inventions.

Question 100

Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.

Official USCIS answers:

- World War I
- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- (Persian) Gulf War

What it means: The United States fought several major wars in the 1900s. World War I (U.S. involvement 1917 to 1918). World War II (U.S. involvement 1941 to 1945). The Korean War (1950 to 1953). The Vietnam War, where U.S. combat troops fought in the 1960s and early 1970s. The Persian Gulf War (1990 to 1991).

Memory tip: *The two big ones: World War I and World War II. Say "World War II."*

Question 101

Why did the United States enter World War I?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: World War I began in Europe in 1914. The United States stayed out at first. German submarines attacked ships, including ships carrying Americans, and the United States declared war on Germany in April 1917. It joined the Allied Powers against the Central Powers.

Memory tip: *Germany attacked U.S. ships. Ships pulled America into World War I.*

Question 102

When did all women get the right to vote?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The 19th Amendment, ratified in 1920, said the right to vote cannot be denied because of sex. This came after more than 70 years of work by the women's rights movement you read about in question 99.

Memory tip: *19th Amendment, 1920. The numbers line up: 19 and 1920 both start with 19.*

Question 103
What was the Great Depression?

Official USCIS answer:

- Longest economic recession in modern history

What it means: The Great Depression was a severe economic downturn that began in 1929 and lasted through most of the 1930s. Many banks failed, businesses closed, and millions of people lost their jobs and savings.

Memory tip: *Depression means low. The economy fell very low for a very long time.*

Question 104
When did the Great Depression start?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The Great Depression started with the stock market crash in October 1929, often called the Great Crash. Stock prices fell sharply, and the damage spread through the whole economy.

Memory tip: *1929, the crash. Twenty-nine, the year the market fell.*

Question 105
Who was president during the Great Depression and World War II?

Official USCIS answer:

- (Franklin) Roosevelt

What it means: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, often called FDR, was President from 1933 until he died in 1945. He led the country through the Great Depression and almost all of World War II. He is the only President elected four times. That is why the 22nd Amendment in question 37 was passed.

Memory tip: *Roosevelt. Same answer for both: the Depression and World War II.*

Question 106

Why did the United States enter World War II?

Official USCIS answers:

- (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)

What it means: On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The next day, the United States declared war on Japan. Days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. America fought with the Allied Powers against the Axis Powers.

Memory tip: *Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Just say "Pearl Harbor."*

Question 107

Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one.

Official USCIS answers:

- 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)

What it means: Dwight D. Eisenhower was the general who commanded the Allied forces in Europe during World War II, including the D-Day invasion in 1944. He was the 34th President, serving from 1953 to 1961. The Korean War ended during his first year. In 1956 he signed the law that created the Interstate Highway System.

Memory tip: *"General during World War II." Or think of driving on the interstate: Eisenhower built the highways.*

Question 108

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

Official USCIS answers:

- Soviet Union
- USSR
- Russia

What it means: The Cold War was a long period of tension, from the late 1940s until 1991, between the United States and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was a communist country led by Russia. It was also called the USSR, short for Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It broke apart in 1991.

Memory tip: *"Soviet Union." Or the short version: USSR.*

Question 109

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

Official USCIS answers:

- Communism
- Nuclear war

What it means: During the Cold War, the United States worried that communism would spread to more countries. Both the United States and the Soviet Union built large numbers of nuclear weapons, so people also feared a nuclear war.

Memory tip: *Cold War fears: communism and nuclear war. Say "Communism."*

Question 110

Why did the United States enter the Korean War?

Official USCIS answer:

- To stop the spread of communism

What it means: In 1950, communist North Korea invaded South Korea. The United States and other United Nations countries sent troops to defend South Korea and stop communism from spreading. Fighting stopped with an armistice, or cease-fire, in 1953.

Memory tip: *Korea and Vietnam have the same answer: to stop the spread of communism.*

Question 111

Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War?

Official USCIS answer:

- To stop the spread of communism

What it means: The United States supported South Vietnam against communist North Vietnam. It sent advisers first and later large numbers of combat troops. The goal was to stop communism from spreading in Southeast Asia. U.S. combat forces left in 1973, and the war ended in 1975 when North Vietnam took over the South.

Memory tip: *Same answer as Korea: to stop the spread of communism.*

Question 112

What did the civil rights movement do?

Official USCIS answer:

- Fought to end racial discrimination

What it means: The civil rights movement, mostly in the 1950s and 1960s, worked to end racial discrimination and segregation, especially against Black Americans. It led to major laws such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Memory tip: *Civil rights means equal rights. The movement fought to end racial discrimination.*

Question 113 **65/20**

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

Official USCIS answers:

- 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”

What it means: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader of the civil rights movement who believed in nonviolent protest. He helped organize the 1963 March on Washington, where he gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The words in the last official answer come from that speech. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968. A national holiday honors him on the third Monday in January.

Memory tip: *"Fought for civil rights." Short and clear.*

Question 114

Why did the United States enter the Persian Gulf War?

Official USCIS answer:

- To force the Iraqi military from Kuwait

What it means: In August 1990, Iraq invaded its neighbor Kuwait. The United States led a coalition of many countries that drove the Iraqi military out of Kuwait in early 1991.

Memory tip: *Iraq went into Kuwait. The United States went in to get Iraq out.*

Question 115 **65/20**

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

Official USCIS answers:

- 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

What it means: On September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four airplanes. They crashed two into the World Trade Center towers in New York City and one into the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. The 40 passengers and

crew on the fourth plane acted to stop the hijackers, and it crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 people were killed.

Memory tip: *The short answer: "Terrorists attacked the United States."*

Question 116

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

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: After the September 11 attacks, the United States began what it called the Global War on Terror. It went to war in Afghanistan in 2001, where the attacks had been planned, and in Iraq in 2003.

Memory tip: *"War in Afghanistan" came first, right after 9/11.*

Question 117

Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

Official USCIS answers:

- 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

For a complete list of tribes, please visit bia.gov.

What it means: There are hundreds of American Indian tribes in the United States that the federal government recognizes. Each has its own history and culture. The official list gives 25 examples. You only need to name one. For the full list, USCIS points to the Bureau of Indian Affairs at bia.gov.

Memory tip: *Pick one and stick with it. "Cherokee" and "Navajo" are two of the best known.*

Question 118

Name one example of an American innovation.

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: Americans have created many inventions that changed the world. Thomas Edison's company made the first practical electric light bulb around 1879. The Wright brothers flew the first powered airplane in 1903. Henry Ford's moving assembly line, started in 1913, made cars cheap enough for ordinary families. The first skyscrapers rose in Chicago and New York. American astronauts first landed on the moon in 1969. The integrated circuit, the tiny chip at the heart of every computer and phone, was invented by Americans in the late 1950s.

Memory tip: *Look up: the light bulb over your head, the airplane in the sky, the moon. Say "Light bulb."*

Chapter 10: Symbols and Holidays

This chapter covers the last ten questions, 119 to 128, the official section Symbols and Holidays. These are some of the easiest questions on the test, and you probably know some of the answers already.

Question 119

What is the capital of the United States?

Official USCIS answer:

- Washington, D.C.

What it means: Washington, D.C. is the capital of the United States. Congress, the White House, and the Supreme Court are all there. "D.C." stands for District of Columbia. It is not part of any state.

Memory tip: *The capital is named after the first President: Washington.*

Question 120

Where is the Statue of Liberty?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The Statue of Liberty stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. France gave it to the United States as a gift, and it was dedicated in 1886. For many immigrants arriving by ship, it was one of the first things they saw in America.

Memory tip: *Lady Liberty welcomes ships into New York Harbor.*

Question 121 **65/20**

Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: The 13 stripes, seven red and six white, stand for the 13 original colonies that declared independence from Britain.

Memory tip: *13 stripes, 13 colonies. Same number.*

Question 122

Why does the flag have 50 stars?

Official USCIS answers:

- (Because there is) one star for each state
- (Because) each star represents a state
- (Because there are) 50 states

What it means: There is one star on the flag for each state. The flag has had 50 stars since 1960, the year after Hawaii became the 50th state.

Memory tip: *50 stars, 50 states. Same number.*

Question 123

What is the name of the national anthem?

Official USCIS answer:

- The Star-Spangled Banner

What it means: Francis Scott Key wrote the words in 1814 after watching the British attack Fort McHenry in Baltimore during the War of 1812. After the attack, he saw the large American flag still flying over the fort. Congress made his song the national anthem in 1931.

Memory tip: *The flag has stars, and it was spangled, meaning sparkling, over the fort: "The Star-Spangled Banner."*

Question 124

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

Official USCIS answers:

- Out of many, one
- We all become one

What it means: "E Pluribus Unum" is Latin. It means "out of many, one." Many states, and many people from many places, join together to make one nation. It appears on the Great Seal of the United States and on U.S. coins. The question says "first motto" because in 1956 Congress made "In God We Trust" the official national motto.

Memory tip: *Many become one. That is your answer, and it is also what you are doing: joining the one nation.*

Question 125

What is Independence Day?

Official USCIS answers:

- A holiday to celebrate U.S. independence (from Britain)

- The country’s birthday

What it means: Independence Day, July 4, celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Americans mark it with parades, cookouts, and fireworks.

Memory tip: *The Fourth of July is the country's birthday.*

Question 126 65/20
Name three national U.S. holidays.

Official USCIS answers:

- 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

What it means: Federal law sets 11 national holidays. Federal offices close on these days. Juneteenth, on June 19, became the newest federal holiday in 2021. It remembers June 19, 1865, when enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, learned they were free. You need to name three.

Memory tip: *Pick three with fixed dates you already know: New Year's Day (January 1), Independence Day (July 4), and Christmas Day (December 25).*

Question 127
What is Memorial Day?

Official USCIS answer:

- A holiday to honor soldiers who died in military service

What it means: Memorial Day, the last Monday in May, honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

Memory tip: *Memorial means remembering. Memorial Day remembers those who died.*

Question 128

What is Veterans Day?

Official USCIS answers:

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

What it means: Veterans Day, November 11, honors everyone who has served in the U.S. military, living or dead. It began as Armistice Day, marking the end of fighting in World War I on November 11, 1918.

Memory tip: *Memorial Day is for those who died. Veterans Day is for all who served.*

Chapter 11: The 65/20 Questions

If you are 65 or older and have been a lawful permanent resident for 20 years or more, you only need to study the 20 questions in this chapter. The officer will ask you 10 of them, and you need 6 correct answers to pass. You may take the civics test in the language of your choice, with an interpreter.

Both your age and your years as a permanent resident count as of the day you filed Form N-400.

The full explanation and memory tip for each question are in the earlier chapters. The question number tells you where to find it.

#	Question	Official answer(s)
2	What is the supreme law of the land?	(U.S.) Constitution
7	How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have?	Twenty-seven (27)
12	What is the economic system of the United States?	Capitalism / Free market economy
20	Name one power of the U.S. Congress.	Writes laws / Declares war / Makes the federal budget
30	What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?	Your answer: _____ (see question 30)
36	The President of the United States is elected for how many years?	Four (4) years
38	What is the name of the President of the United States now?	Your answer: _____ (see question 38)
39	What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?	Your answer: _____ (see question 39)
44	Who vetoes bills?	The President (of the United States)
52	What is the highest court in the United States?	Supreme Court
61	Who is the governor of your state now?	Your answer: _____ (see question 61)
66	What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?	The United States / The flag
74	Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?	American Indians / Native Americans
78	Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?	(Thomas) Jefferson
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
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 (more answers: see question 94)
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”
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	Official answer(s)
121	Why does the flag have 13 stripes?	(Because there were) 13 original colonies / (Because the stripes) represent the original colonies
126	Name three national U.S. holidays.	New Year's Day / Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / Presidents Day (Washington's Birthday) / Memorial Day (more answers: see question 126)

Tip: Even if you do not qualify for 65/20, these 20 questions are a good place to start. They include some of the most important ideas on the test.

Chapter 12: Reading and Writing Words

The English reading and writing tests use simple sentences about civics and history. USCIS publishes the words that appear in those sentences. If you know every word on these two lists, you are ready for the reading and writing tests.

These lists come from the USCIS Reading Vocabulary and Writing Vocabulary flash cards (form M-715). USCIS still posts these lists for the English test. The 2025 change applied to the civics test only.

How to study these words

1. Read each word out loud. Ask someone to check your pronunciation.
2. Copy each word by hand. Writing is the best way to learn spelling.
3. Make simple sentences using the words, like the ones on the test. For example: "Washington was the first President." "Citizens can vote."
4. Have someone read a sentence to you while you write it down. Check your spelling, but remember that small mistakes are OK if the meaning is clear.

Tip: Do not abbreviate on the writing test. Write "United States," not "U.S.," unless the officer says an abbreviation is OK. Numbers may be written as words or digits, so "fifty" and "50" are both fine.

Reading words

The official reading list has 64 words and phrases, grouped the way USCIS groups them.

Group	Words
People	Abraham Lincoln, George Washington
Civics	American flag, Bill of Rights, capital, citizen, city, Congress, country, Father of Our Country, government, President, right, Senators, state/states, White House
Places	America, United States, U.S.
Holidays	Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving
Question Words	How, What, When, Where, Who, Why
Verbs	can, come, do/does, elects, have/has, is/are/was/be, lives/lived, meet, name, pay, vote, want
Other (Function)	a, for, here, in, of, on, the, to, we
Other (Content)	colors, dollar bill, first, largest, many, most, north, one, people, second, south

Writing words

The official writing list has 75 words and phrases, grouped the way USCIS groups them.

Group	Words
People	Adams, Lincoln, Washington

Group	Words
Civics	American Indians, capital, citizens, Civil War, Congress, Father of Our Country, flag, free, freedom of speech, President, right, Senators, state/states, White House
Places	Alaska, California, Canada, Delaware, Mexico, New York City, United States, Washington, Washington, D.C.
Months	February, May, June, July, September, October, November
Holidays	Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving
Verbs	can, come, elect, have/has, is/was/be, lives/lived, meets, pay, vote, want
Other (Function)	and, during, for, here, in, of, on, the, to, we
Other (Content)	blue, dollar bill, fifty/50, first, largest, most, north, one, one hundred/100, people, red, second, south, taxes, white

Chapter 13: Practice Tests

These four practice tests work like the real civics test. Each one has 20 questions taken from the official list of 128. On the real test you need 12 correct answers to pass, and the officer stops once you reach 12.

How to take a practice test

1. Ask a friend or family member to read each question out loud to you. Cover the page so you cannot see it.
2. Answer out loud, the same way you will at your interview.
3. Your helper checks your answer against the answer key at the end of this chapter, or against the official answers in the chapter for that question.
4. Count your correct answers. Twelve or more is a pass. Aim for 16 or more so you have room to spare on the real day.
5. For every question you miss, go back and reread it. The book question number is printed after each one.

> **Tip:** If you are studying alone, read the question out loud, answer out loud, then check. Saying the answer out loud is the best practice for the real test.

Practice Test 1

1. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now? (question 30)
2. The U.S. Constitution starts with the words "We the People." What does "We the People" mean? (question 4)
3. What is Veterans Day? (question 128)
4. Who does a U.S. senator represent? (question 31)
5. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance? (question 66)
6. Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one. (question 107)
7. Many documents influenced the U.S. Constitution. Name one. (question 14)
8. There are three branches of government. Why? (question 15)
9. How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have? (question 7)
10. What is the supreme law of the land? (question 2)
11. Why does the flag have 13 stripes? (question 121)
12. Why is it important to pay federal taxes? (question 71)
13. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now? (question 39)
14. The colonists came to America for many reasons. Name one. (question 73)
15. Who appoints federal judges? (question 45)
16. If the president can no longer serve, who becomes president? (question 40)

17. What is the capital of the United States? (question 119)

18. What is Memorial Day? (question 127)

19. What are two examples of civic participation in the United States? (question 69)

20. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? (question 78)

Number correct: _____ out of 20. Passed (12 or more)? Yes / No

Practice Test 2

1. What is the name of the national anthem? (question 123)

2. What was the Great Depression? (question 103)

3. What war did the Americans fight to win independence from Britain? (question 76)

4. What founding document said the American colonies were free from Britain? (question 9)

5. How long is a term for a member of the House of Representatives? (question 25)

6. Why does each state have two senators? (question 28)

7. Alexander Hamilton is famous for many things. Name one. (question 89)

8. What major event happened on September 11, 2001 in the United States? (question 115)

9. Why did the United States enter World War I? (question 101)

10. What is the rule of law? (question 13)

11. Who was the United States' main rival during the Cold War? (question 108)

12. Name one power of the U.S. Congress. (question 20)

13. The Civil War had many important events. Name one. (question 93)

14. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now? (question 57)

15. Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks. (question 116)

16. Name two important ideas from the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. (question 10)

17. Why is the Electoral College important? (question 49)

18. What does the President's Cabinet do? (question 47)

19. The President of the United States is elected for how many years? (question 36)

20. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States. (question 117)

Number correct: _____ out of 20. Passed (12 or more)? Yes / No

Practice Test 3

1. Supreme Court justices serve for life. Why? (question 56)

2. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted? (question 79)

3. What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment? (question 60)

4. How many voting members are in the House of Representatives? (question 24)

5. Name one power that is only for the federal government. (question 58)

6. Why did the United States enter the Persian Gulf War? (question 114)

7. What U.S. war ended slavery? (question 96)

8. What founding document was written in 1787? (question 82)

9. How many senators does each state have? (question 27)

10. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived? (question 74)

11. How many seats are on the Supreme Court? (question 53)

12. How many Supreme Court justices are usually needed to decide a case? (question 54)

13. What did the civil rights movement do? (question 112)

14. Who does a member of the House of Representatives represent? (question 33)

15. Who was president during the Great Depression and World War II? (question 105)

16. Who can vote in federal elections, run for federal office, and serve on a jury in the United States? (question 64)

17. There were 13 original states. Name five. (question 81)

18. The executive branch has many parts. Name one. (question 46)

19. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s. (question 91)

20. What part of the federal government writes laws? (question 18)

Number correct: _____ out of 20. Passed (12 or more)? Yes / No

Practice Test 4

1. What are two Cabinet-level positions? (question 48)

2. When did all women get the right to vote? (question 102)

3. Who is one of your state's U.S. senators now? (question 23)

4. Where is the Statue of Liberty? (question 120)

5. Why does the flag have 50 stars? (question 122)

6. Why were the Federalist Papers important? (question 84)

7. Name two promises that new citizens make in the Oath of Allegiance. (question 67)

8. What is one part of the judicial branch? (question 50)

9. What is the capital of your state? (question 62)

10. During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States? (question 109)

11. What does the judicial branch do? (question 51)

12. What group of people was taken and sold as slaves? (question 75)

13. What is the form of government of the United States? (question 1)

14. Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War? (question 111)

15. Name your U.S. representative. (question 29)

16. When did the Great Depression start? (question 104)

17. James Madison is famous for many things. Name one. (question 88)

18. Who vetoes bills? (question 44)

19. Who elects U.S. senators? (question 32)

20. Who is Commander in Chief of the U.S. military? (question 42)

Number correct: _____ out of 20. Passed (12 or more)? Yes / No

Answer Key

One or more official answers are shown for each question. Any official answer on the USCIS list counts. For the full list of answers, see the book question number.

Practice Test 1 answers

#	Book question	Official answer(s)
1	30	Your answer: _____ (see question 30)
2	4	Self-government / Popular sovereignty / Consent of the governed (more answers: see question 4)
3	128	A holiday to honor people in the (U.S.) military / A holiday to honor people who have served (in the U.S. military)
4	31	Citizens of their state / People of their state
5	66	The United States / The flag
6	107	General during World War II / President at the end of (during) the Korean War / 34th president of the United States (more answers: see question 107)
7	14	Declaration of Independence / Articles of Confederation / Federalist Papers (more answers: see question 14)
8	15	So one part does not become too powerful / Checks and balances / Separation of powers
9	7	Twenty-seven (27)
10	2	(U.S.) Constitution
11	121	(Because there were) 13 original colonies / (Because the stripes) represent the original colonies
12	71	Required by law / All people pay to fund the federal government / Required by the (U.S.) Constitution (16th Amendment) (more answers: see question 71)
13	39	Your answer: _____ (see question 39)
14	73	Freedom / Political liberty / Religious freedom (more answers: see question 73)
15	45	The President (of the United States)
16	40	The Vice President (of the United States)
17	119	Washington, D.C.
18	127	A holiday to honor soldiers who died in military service
19	69	Vote / Run for office / Join a political party (more answers: see question 69)
20	78	(Thomas) Jefferson

Practice Test 2 answers

#	Book question	Official answer(s)
1	123	The Star-Spangled Banner
2	103	Longest economic recession in modern history
3	76	American Revolution / The (American) Revolutionary War / War for (American) Independence
4	9	Declaration of Independence
5	25	Two (2) years
6	28	Equal representation (for small states) / The Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise)
7	89	First Secretary of the Treasury / One of the writers of the Federalist Papers / Helped establish the First Bank of the United States (more answers: see question 89)

#	Book question	Official answer(s)
8	115	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 (more answers: see question 115)
9	101	Because Germany attacked U.S. (civilian) ships / To support the Allied Powers (England, France, Italy, and Russia) / To oppose the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria)
10	13	Everyone must follow the law. / Leaders must obey the law. / Government must obey the law. (more answers: see question 13)
11	108	Soviet Union / USSR / Russia
12	20	Writes laws / Declares war / Makes the federal budget
13	93	(Battle of) Fort Sumter / Emancipation Proclamation / (Battle of) Vicksburg (more answers: see question 93)
14	57	Your answer: _____ (see question 57)
15	116	(Global) War on Terror / War in Afghanistan / War in Iraq
16	10	Equality / Liberty / Social contract (more answers: see question 10)
17	49	It decides who is elected president. / It provides a compromise between the popular election of the president and congressional selection.
18	47	Advises the President (of the United States)
19	36	Four (4) years
20	117	Apache / Blackfeet / Cayuga (more answers: see question 117)

Practice Test 3 answers

#	Book question	Official answer(s)
1	56	To be independent (of politics) / To limit outside (political) influence
2	79	July 4, 1776
3	60	(It states that the) powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or to the people.
4	24	Four hundred thirty-five (435)
5	58	Print paper money / Mint coins / Declare war (more answers: see question 58)
6	114	To force the Iraqi military from Kuwait
7	96	The Civil War
8	82	(U.S.) Constitution
9	27	Two (2)
10	74	American Indians / Native Americans
11	53	Nine (9)
12	54	Five (5)
13	112	Fought to end racial discrimination
14	33	Citizens in their (congressional) district / Citizens in their district / People from their (congressional) district (more answers: see question 33)
15	105	(Franklin) Roosevelt
16	64	Citizens / Citizens of the United States / U.S. citizens
17	81	New Hampshire / Massachusetts / Rhode Island / Connecticut / New York (more answers: see question 81)
18	46	President (of the United States) / Cabinet / Federal departments and agencies
19	91	War of 1812 / Mexican-American War / Civil War (more answers: see question 91)

#	Book question	Official answer(s)
20	18	(U.S.) Congress / (U.S. or national) legislature / Legislative branch

Practice Test 4 answers

#	Book question	Official answer(s)
1	48	Attorney General / Secretary of Agriculture / Secretary of Commerce (more answers: see question 48)
2	102	1920 / After World War I / (With the) 19th Amendment
3	23	Your answer: _____ (see question 23)
4	120	New York (Harbor) / Liberty Island [Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]
5	122	(Because there is) one star for each state / (Because) each star represents a state / (Because there are) 50 states
6	84	They helped people understand the (U.S.) Constitution. / They supported passing the (U.S.) Constitution.
7	67	Give up loyalty to other countries / Defend the (U.S.) Constitution / Obey the laws of the United States (more answers: see question 67)
8	50	Supreme Court / Federal Courts
9	62	Your answer: _____ (see question 62)
10	109	Communism / Nuclear war
11	51	Reviews laws / Explains laws / Resolves disputes (disagreements) about the law (more answers: see question 51)
12	75	Africans / People from Africa
13	1	Republic / Constitution-based federal republic / Representative democracy
14	111	To stop the spread of communism
15	29	Your answer: _____ (see question 29)
16	104	The Great Crash (1929) / Stock market crash of 1929
17	88	“Father of the Constitution” / Fourth president of the United States / President during the War of 1812 (more answers: see question 88)
18	44	The President (of the United States)
19	32	Citizens from their state
20	42	The President (of the United States)

Chapter 14: Flashcard Pages

Use these pages to quiz yourself on all 128 questions. Each row has the question on the left and the official answers on the right.

How to use the flashcard pages

1. Fold the page down the middle so you only see the questions.
2. Read a question and say your answer out loud.
3. Unfold the page and check.
4. Put a light pencil mark next to any question you miss, and come back to it tomorrow.

For questions with long answer lists, only some of the answers are shown here. The full list is in the chapter for that question. For questions marked "Your answer," copy the name from the blank you filled in earlier.

#	Question	Answer
1	What is the form of government of the United States?	Republic / Constitution-based federal republic / Representative democracy
2	What is the supreme law of the land?	(U.S.) Constitution
3	Name one thing the U.S. Constitution does.	Forms the government / Defines powers of government / Defines the parts of government (more answers: see question 3)
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 (more answers: see question 4)
5	How are changes made to the U.S. Constitution?	Amendments / The amendment process
6	What does the Bill of Rights protect?	(The basic) rights of Americans / (The basic) rights of people living in the United States
7	How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have?	Twenty-seven (27)
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. (more answers: see question 8)
9	What founding document said the American colonies were free from Britain?	Declaration of Independence
10	Name two important ideas from the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.	Equality / Liberty / Social contract (more answers: see question 10)
11	The words “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness” are in what founding document?	Declaration of Independence
12	What is the economic system of the United States?	Capitalism / Free market economy
13	What is the rule of law?	Everyone must follow the law. / Leaders must obey the law. / Government must obey the law. (more answers: see question 13)
14	Many documents influenced the U.S. Constitution. Name one.	Declaration of Independence / Articles of Confederation / Federalist Papers (more answers: see question 14)
15	There are three branches of government. Why?	So one part does not become too powerful / Checks and balances / Separation of powers
16	Name the three branches of government.	Legislative, executive, and judicial / Congress, president, and the courts

#	Question	Answer
17	The President of the United States is in charge of which branch of government?	Executive branch
18	What part of the federal government writes laws?	(U.S.) Congress / (U.S. or national) legislature / Legislative branch
19	What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?	Senate and House (of Representatives)
20	Name one power of the U.S. Congress.	Writes laws / Declares war / Makes the federal budget
21	How many U.S. senators are there?	One hundred (100)
22	How long is a term for a U.S. senator?	Six (6) years
23	Who is one of your state's U.S. senators now?	Your answer: _____ (see question 23)
24	How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?	Four hundred thirty-five (435)
25	How long is a term for a member of the House of Representatives?	Two (2) years
26	Why do U.S. representatives serve shorter terms than U.S. senators?	To more closely follow public opinion
27	How many senators does each state have?	Two (2)
28	Why does each state have two senators?	Equal representation (for small states) / The Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise)
29	Name your U.S. representative.	Your answer: _____ (see question 29)
30	What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?	Your answer: _____ (see question 30)
31	Who does a U.S. senator represent?	Citizens of their state / People of their state
32	Who elects U.S. senators?	Citizens from their state
33	Who does a member of the House of Representatives represent?	Citizens in their (congressional) district / Citizens in their district / People from their (congressional) district (more answers: see question 33)
34	Who elects members of the House of Representatives?	Citizens from their (congressional) district
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
36	The President of the United States is elected for how many years?	Four (4) years
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
38	What is the name of the President of the United States now?	Your answer: _____ (see question 38)
39	What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?	Your answer: _____ (see question 39)
40	If the president can no longer serve, who becomes president?	The Vice President (of the United States)
41	Name one power of the president.	Signs bills into law / Vetoes bills / Enforces laws (more answers: see question 41)
42	Who is Commander in Chief of the U.S. military?	The President (of the United States)
43	Who signs bills to become laws?	The President (of the United States)
44	Who vetoes bills?	The President (of the United States)
45	Who appoints federal judges?	The President (of the United States)
46	The executive branch has many parts. Name one.	President (of the United States) / Cabinet / Federal departments and agencies

#	Question	Answer
47	What does the President's Cabinet do?	Advises the President (of the United States)
48	What are two Cabinet-level positions?	Attorney General / Secretary of Agriculture / Secretary of Commerce (more answers: see question 48)
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.
50	What is one part of the judicial branch?	Supreme Court / Federal Courts
51	What does the judicial branch do?	Reviews laws / Explains laws / Resolves disputes (disagreements) about the law (more answers: see question 51)
52	What is the highest court in the United States?	Supreme Court
53	How many seats are on the Supreme Court?	Nine (9)
54	How many Supreme Court justices are usually needed to decide a case?	Five (5)
55	How long do Supreme Court justices serve?	(For) life / Lifetime appointment / (Until) retirement
56	Supreme Court justices serve for life. Why?	To be independent (of politics) / To limit outside (political) influence
57	Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?	Your answer: _____ (see question 57)
58	Name one power that is only for the federal government.	Print paper money / Mint coins / Declare war (more answers: see question 58)
59	Name one power that is only for the states.	Provide schooling and education / Provide protection (police) / Provide safety (fire departments) (more answers: see question 59)
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.
61	Who is the governor of your state now?	Your answer: _____ (see question 61)
62	What is the capital of your state?	Your answer: _____ (see question 62)
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.) (more answers: see question 63)
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
65	What are three rights of everyone living in the United States?	Freedom of expression / Freedom of speech / Freedom of assembly (more answers: see question 65)
66	What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?	The United States / The flag
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 (more answers: see question 67)
68	How can people become United States citizens?	Be born in the United States, under the conditions set by the 14th Amendment / Naturalize / Derive citizenship (under conditions set by Congress)
69	What are two examples of civic participation in the United States?	Vote / Run for office / Join a political party (more answers: see question 69)
70	What is one way Americans can serve their country?	Vote / Pay taxes / Obey the law (more answers: see question 70)

#	Question	Answer
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) (more answers: see question 71)
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
73	The colonists came to America for many reasons. Name one.	Freedom / Political liberty / Religious freedom (more answers: see question 73)
74	Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?	American Indians / Native Americans
75	What group of people was taken and sold as slaves?	Africans / People from Africa
76	What war did the Americans fight to win independence from Britain?	American Revolution / The (American) Revolutionary War / War for (American) Independence
77	Name one reason why the Americans declared independence from Britain.	High taxes / Taxation without representation / British soldiers stayed in Americans' houses (boarding, quartering) (more answers: see question 77)
78	Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?	(Thomas) Jefferson
79	When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?	July 4, 1776
80	The American Revolution had many important events. Name one.	(Battle of) Bunker Hill / Declaration of Independence / Washington Crossing the Delaware (Battle of Trenton) (more answers: see question 80)
81	There were 13 original states. Name five.	New Hampshire / Massachusetts / Rhode Island / Connecticut / New York (more answers: see question 81)
82	What founding document was written in 1787?	(U.S.) Constitution
83	The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.	(James) Madison / (Alexander) Hamilton / (John) Jay (more answers: see question 83)
84	Why were the Federalist Papers important?	They helped people understand the (U.S.) Constitution. / They supported passing the (U.S.) Constitution.
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 (more answers: see question 85)
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 (more answers: see question 86)
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) (more answers: see question 87)
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 (more answers: see question 88)
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 (more answers: see question 89)
90	What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?	Louisiana Territory / Louisiana

#	Question	Answer
91	Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.	War of 1812 / Mexican-American War / Civil War (more answers: see question 91)
92	Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.	The Civil War
93	The Civil War had many important events. Name one.	(Battle of) Fort Sumter / Emancipation Proclamation / (Battle of) Vicksburg (more answers: see question 93)
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 (more answers: see question 94)
95	What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?	Freed the slaves / Freed slaves in the Confederacy / Freed slaves in the Confederate states (more answers: see question 95)
96	What U.S. war ended slavery?	The Civil War
97	What amendment says all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are U.S. citizens?	14th Amendment
98	When did all men get the right to vote?	After the Civil War / During Reconstruction / (With the) 15th Amendment (more answers: see question 98)
99	Name one leader of the women's rights movement in the 1800s.	Susan B. Anthony / Elizabeth Cady Stanton / Sojourner Truth (more answers: see question 99)
100	Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.	World War I / World War II / Korean War (more answers: see question 100)
101	Why did the United States enter World War I?	Because Germany attacked U.S. (civilian) ships / To support the Allied Powers (England, France, Italy, and Russia) / To oppose the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria)
102	When did all women get the right to vote?	1920 / After World War I / (With the) 19th Amendment
103	What was the Great Depression?	Longest economic recession in modern history
104	When did the Great Depression start?	The Great Crash (1929) / Stock market crash of 1929
105	Who was president during the Great Depression and World War II?	(Franklin) Roosevelt
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) (more answers: see question 106)
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 (more answers: see question 107)
108	Who was the United States' main rival during the Cold War?	Soviet Union / USSR / Russia
109	During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States?	Communism / Nuclear war
110	Why did the United States enter the Korean War?	To stop the spread of communism
111	Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War?	To stop the spread of communism
112	What did the civil rights movement do?	Fought to end racial discrimination
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	Answer
114	Why did the United States enter the Persian Gulf War?	To force the Iraqi military from Kuwait
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 (more answers: see question 115)
116	Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks.	(Global) War on Terror / War in Afghanistan / War in Iraq
117	Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.	Apache / Blackfeet / Cayuga (more answers: see question 117)
118	Name one example of an American innovation.	Light bulb / Automobile (cars, internal combustion engine) / Skyscrapers (more answers: see question 118)
119	What is the capital of the United States?	Washington, D.C.
120	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).]
121	Why does the flag have 13 stripes?	(Because there were) 13 original colonies / (Because the stripes) represent the original colonies
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
123	What is the name of the national anthem?	The Star-Spangled Banner
124	The Nation's first motto was "E Pluribus Unum." What does that mean?	Out of many, one / We all become one
125	What is Independence Day?	A holiday to celebrate U.S. independence (from Britain) / The country's birthday
126	Name three national U.S. holidays.	New Year's Day / Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / Presidents Day (Washington's Birthday) (more answers: see question 126)
127	What is Memorial Day?	A holiday to honor soldiers who died in military service
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)

Glossary

Amendment. A change or addition to the Constitution.

Assassinate. To murder an important public figure, often for political reasons.

Bill of Rights. The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1791.

Cabinet. The President's top advisers, most of whom lead the major federal departments.

Capitalism. An economic system where private people and businesses own most property and make most business decisions.

Census. The official count of everyone living in the United States, taken every ten years.

Checks and balances. The system that lets each branch of government limit the power of the other two.

Chief Justice. The leader of the Supreme Court and of the federal judiciary.

Civic participation. Taking part in community and public life, such as voting or contacting elected officials.

Civics. The study of how government works and the rights and duties of citizens.

Civil rights movement. The movement, mostly in the 1950s and 1960s, to end racial discrimination and segregation.

Cold War. The long period of tension between the United States and the Soviet Union, from the late 1940s to 1991.

Colony. An area ruled by another country. The 13 American colonies were ruled by Great Britain.

Commander in Chief. The leader of all U.S. armed forces. The Constitution gives this role to the President.

Communism. A political and economic system where the government controls property and the economy and allows only one party.

Confederacy. The Southern states that tried to break away from the United States during the Civil War.

Congress. The national legislature, made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Congressional district. An area of a state that elects one member of the House of Representatives.

Constitutional Convention. The 1787 meeting in Philadelphia where the U.S. Constitution was written.

Continental Congress. The meeting of delegates from the colonies that led the fight for independence and adopted the Declaration of Independence.

Discrimination. Unfair treatment of people because of their race, religion, sex, or other traits.

Draft. A system that requires people to serve in the military when the country needs more soldiers.

Due consideration. USCIS officers may take your age, background, education, and time in the United States into account when giving the civics test.

Elector. A person chosen in each state to cast one of that state's votes for President in the Electoral College.

Electoral College. The group of electors from each state who cast the votes that elect the President and Vice President.

Emancipation. Being set free from slavery.

Executive branch. The branch of government that carries out and enforces laws, led by the President.

Federal. A system where power is shared between a national government and state governments.

Federal holiday. A day set by federal law when federal government offices are closed.

Federalist Papers. 85 essays by Madison, Hamilton, and Jay, published in 1787 and 1788, that argued for the Constitution.

Form N-400. The Application for Naturalization, the form you file with USCIS to apply for citizenship.

Form N-648. The Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions, used to ask to be excused from the English or civics test because of a medical disability.

Governor. The elected head of a state government.

Great Depression. A severe economic downturn that began in 1929 and lasted through most of the 1930s.

House of Representatives. The part of Congress with 435 voting members, divided among the states by population, who serve two-year terms.

Impeachment. The process Congress uses to charge and possibly remove a federal official, such as a President or judge.

Judicial branch. The branch of government that explains laws and settles disputes about them: the courts.

Judicial review. The power of courts to decide whether a law or government action goes against the Constitution.

Jury. A group of citizens chosen to hear a court case and decide the facts.

Lawful permanent resident. A person allowed to live and work in the United States permanently. Often called a green card holder.

Legislative branch. The branch of government that makes laws. In the federal government, this is Congress.

Line of succession. The order of officials who would become President if the President could no longer serve.

Motto. A short saying that expresses an idea or belief.

National anthem. A country's official song.

Naturalization. The legal process a person born in another country goes through to become a U.S. citizen.

Oath of Allegiance. The promise of loyalty to the United States that new citizens make at their naturalization ceremony.

Parliament. The lawmaking body of Great Britain.

Persecution. Cruel or unfair treatment because of beliefs, religion, or background.

Policy Manual. The official USCIS rulebook that tells officers how to handle applications, including how to give the naturalization test.

Poll tax. A fee some places once charged people to vote. The 24th Amendment banned poll taxes in federal elections.

Popular sovereignty. The idea that the power of government comes from the people.

Ratify. To approve officially. Three-fourths of the states must ratify an amendment.

Re-examination. A second interview, held 60 to 90 days after the first, to retake any part of the test you did not pass.

Reconstruction. The period after the Civil War (about 1865 to 1877) when the Southern states were brought back into the Union.

Republic. A form of government where the people elect leaders to represent them and make decisions.

Rule of law. The idea that everyone, including leaders and the government, must follow the law.

Selective Service. The federal agency that keeps a list of men who could be called to serve in the military if a draft were needed.

Senate. The part of Congress with 100 members, two from each state, who serve six-year terms.

Speaker of the House. The leader of the House of Representatives, elected by its members.

Supreme Court. The highest court in the United States, with nine justices.

Terrorism. Using violence against ordinary people to spread fear for political goals.

Unconstitutional. Against the Constitution. A law the courts find unconstitutional cannot be enforced.

Union. The Northern states during the Civil War, which fought to keep the country together.

USCIS. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the government agency that handles citizenship applications and gives the naturalization test.

Veteran. A person who has served in the military.

Veto. When the President refuses to sign a bill passed by Congress and sends it back.

Zoning. Local rules about how land can be used, such as for homes, stores, or factories.

Sources and Further Reading

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About This Book

This study guide covers all 128 official civics questions on the 2025 version of the U.S. citizenship test. Each official answer is printed exactly as U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services lists it, followed by a short plain-English explanation and a memory tip. Other chapters walk you through the interview, the 20 questions for applicants 65 or older with 20 years as a permanent resident, and the official reading and writing word lists.

Four practice tests and flashcard pages help you check yourself before the big day. This book is not affiliated with any government agency, and it is not legal advice.