



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

November 30, 2006

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PRESS RELEASE

USCIS Issues Questions and Answers for New Pilot Naturalization Exam
Advance Release Informs American Public and Stakeholders of Civics and U.S. History

WASHINGTON - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Emilio Gonzalez announced today the release of 144 questions and answers for the pilot test of a new naturalization exam. USCIS will administer the pilot exam in early 2007 to about 5,000 volunteer citizenship applicants in 10 cities.

“We found that the current naturalization exam process lacks standardization and encourages applicants to memorize facts just to pass a test, but that doesn’t guarantee that they understand the meaning behind the question,” said Director Gonzalez. “Our goal is to inspire immigrants to learn about the civic values of this nation so that after they take the oath of citizenship they will participate fully in our great democracy.”

USCIS included new questions that focus on the concepts of democracy and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. In designing the new exam, USCIS received assistance and worked with test development contractors, U.S. history and government scholars, and English as a second language experts. USCIS also sought input from a variety of stakeholders, including immigrant advocacy groups, citizenship instructors and district adjudications officers.

The pilot will allow USCIS to work out any problems and refine the exam before it is fully implemented nationwide in the spring of 2008. The questions and answers are posted on the agency Web site, <http://www.uscis.gov>. Questions that are not successful in the pilot will be dropped, narrowing the list to the same 100 questions as the current exam. The range of acceptable answers to questions will increase so that applicants may learn more about a topic and select from a wider range of responses. In addition to new questions, USCIS will soon release a new civics-based vocabulary list to help applicants study for the English reading and writing portion of the proposed test.

During the trial period, volunteer applicants who choose to take the pilot exam can immediately take the current exam if they incorrectly answer a pilot question. To pass, applicants will have to correctly answer six of 10 selected questions. The 10 pilot test sites are: Albany, N.Y.; Boston, Mass; Charleston, S.C.; Denver, Colo; El Paso, TX; Kansas City, Mo.; Miami, Fla.; San Antonio, TX; Tucson, Ariz.; and Yakima, Wash.

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On March 1, 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security.



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Contact: Office of Communications
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Fact Sheet

USCIS NATURALIZATION TEST REDESIGN

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is revising the naturalization test to create a test and testing process that is standardized, fair and meaningful. A standardized and fair naturalization test will include uniform testing protocols and procedures nationwide to ensure that there is no variation between offices. A meaningful test will encourage civic learning and patriotism among prospective citizens. A revised test, with an emphasis on the fundamental concepts of American democracy and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, will help to encourage citizenship applicants to learn and identify with the basic values that we all share as Americans.

BACKGROUND

During the past 10 years, the standardization and meaningfulness of the naturalization test have come under scrutiny. Various studies found that the exam had no standardized content, instruments, protocols or scoring system. Inconsistencies were reported in the way the exams were administered nationwide, and there was no assessment of whether applicants had a meaningful understanding of U.S. history and government.¹

To address these concerns, Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) launched a test redesign project in 2000 that has included technical assistance from several test development contractors, the National Academy of Sciences, a panel of history and U.S. government scholars, and a panel of English as a Second Language (ESL) experts. In addition, USCIS has sought input from a variety of stakeholders, including immigrant advocacy groups, citizenship instructors, ESL teachers, and USCIS District Adjudications Officers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q. How will the naturalization test change?

A. *English Reading and Writing.* The reading and writing portion of the proposed new English test is similar to the existing test. Applicants will still have up to three chances to read and write a sentence correctly in English. The difference is that USCIS will provide applicants with study materials for the proposed test, to include a civics-based vocabulary list, and the list of sentences will focus on civics and history topics, rather than a list of sentences that cover a range of topics.

Civics. The proposed format for the new civics test will still consist of 100 civics questions and answers. USCIS will place these questions and answers, along with a study guide on the Internet and elsewhere in the public domain to help applicants prepare. Applicants must still answer six out of 10 questions correctly during the naturalization interview.

English Speaking Test. The English speaking portion of the test will still include the questions normally asked in the naturalization interview.

Q. What are the new civics questions and English vocabulary list items?

A. USCIS will make the vocabulary list available shortly before the pilot begins.

Q. How were the questions developed?

- A. *English Items.* A panel of English as a Second Language (ESL) and other test development experts chosen by the association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) developed the English items. The TESOL panel established an English language level for the test consistent with Department of Education reporting levels for adult basic education.

Civics Items. The TESOL panel also assisted in drafting and reviewing civics questions using a content framework identified by the Office of Citizenship from a review of government authorized civics and citizenship texts, the U.S. Department of Education's National Standards for Civics and Government, the current naturalization test, and the study guide developed by a panel of experts assembled by USCIS in 2004.

Q. How are the new questions an improvement over the old questions?

- A. *Fairness.* By weighing the questions on the new civics and U.S. history test we will ensure that all test forms are at the same cognitive and language level. By creating test forms at the same level of difficulty, we are ensuring that an applicant who goes for an interview in one city of the country has the same chance of passing the test as in any other city. The English vocabulary on the new test is also fairer because it is targeted at a language level consistent with the Department of Education reporting standards for the level required by Section 312 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. District Adjudication Officers are being trained to administer and score the naturalization tests in the same way nationwide to ensure uniform administration of the test.

Meaningful. Applicants will receive a study guide on the new civics and U.S. history questions so they can deepen their knowledge and understanding of our Nation as they prepare for the exam. The new items will focus less on redundant and trivial questions based on rote memorization and will focus on concepts, such as the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Some items on the current test fit those needs and required little content change, so several items from the current test will appear on the revised test. The range of acceptable answers to each question will also increase so that applicants can learn more about a topic and select from a wider range of acceptable answers. And finally, the reading and writing test will provide a tool for civic learning because the vocabulary list is civics-based.

Q. How will the interview process change for applicants?

- A. The interview process will not change.

PILOT PROGRAM

As part of the test redesign, USCIS will conduct a pilot program in ten cities beginning in January 2007 to ensure the agency has all the information necessary before the new test is fully implemented nationwide in 2008. During this pilot, USCIS will carefully analyze the new test questions to make certain that the questions are fair and work as they were intended. USCIS will also collect information about testing procedures, to include feedback from DAOs, to help refine the testing procedures and facilitate the smooth transition to the new naturalization exam.

Q. What will USCIS pilot?

- A. USCIS plans to pilot 143 U.S. history and government questions and approximately 35 reading and 35 writing items. The topic areas include principals of American democracy, system of government, rule of law, rights and responsibilities, American History, and geography. About half (57 questions) include rephrased versions of questions on the current exam. Pilot participants will receive advance copies of the history and government items for self-study. USCIS will also make public a list of the vocabulary words that comprise the reading and writing test, but not the actual test itself.

Q. How were the questions selected?

- A. The TESOL panel assisted USCIS in drafting and reviewing civics questions using best practices and conventional sample techniques, such as regression analysis, currently used in private industry.

Q. Where are the test sites?

- A. The pilot program will run in 10 cities that were randomly selected based on geographic region and citizenship application volume. The ten pilot sites are: Albany, NY, Boston, MA; Charleston, S.C.; Denver; El Paso, Texas; Kansas City, Mo.; Miami; San Antonio, Texas; Tucson, Ariz.; and Yakima, Wash.

Q. How were the 10 pilot cities selected?

- A. To capture the diversity of USCIS offices and applicants, USCIS randomly selected a representative sample of 10 districts by geographic region and the volume of applications that were processed in each office to conduct the pilot. This method will help insure that the final results can be made with equal accuracy and statistical weight.

Q. What is the purpose of the pilot?

- A. A pilot is a crucial component of any test design process. A pilot ensures that the draft test items, scoring rubrics, and administration processes are appropriate, not too difficult, and elicit the responses we expect.

Q. How will USCIS conduct the pilot?

- A. USCIS must administer about 5,000 tests to achieve a representative and significant study.
- Pilots could begin in early 2007. USCIS is training the test administrators on the new exam process.
 - Once pilots begin, we anticipate that they will last between two to four months.
 - USCIS will mail a notification to all applicants scheduled for an interview at the pilot sites during the pilot period informing them that they have the opportunity to participate in the national pilot program.
 - Applicants will receive a letter explaining the pilot and study questions.
 - Applicants who take the pilot but fail one or more parts will have the opportunity to take the current test or part of the current test immediately during the interview, thus giving them an additional opportunity to pass the naturalization test.
 - Many of the questions on the pilot test and the current test cover the same subjects, so additional preparation is expected to be minimal.
 - Once pilot results have been analyzed, piloted items will be revised accordingly.

Q. Must applicants participate in the pilot?

- A. No. Applicants will have the choice to decline participation in the pilot test. For those who decline, they will be given the current test.

USCIS will continue to meet with local immigrant service providers, advocates, and ESL teachers in pilot sites to gain their support so that they can encourage immigrants to participate in their government and make this a successful pilot.

– USCIS –

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¹ (See reports and recommendations from Coopers and Lybrand, 1997; U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, 1997; Department of Justice Office of Inspector General 2000; Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General 2005.)



Naturalization Test Pilot Civics Questions

November 30, 2006



Civics (History and Government) Pilot Naturalization Test Questions

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT:

A: Principles of American Democracy

1. Name one important idea found in the Declaration of Independence.

A: People are born with natural rights.

A: The power of government comes from the people.

A: The people can change their government if it hurts their natural rights.

A: All people are created equal.

2. What is the supreme law of the land?

A: The Constitution

3. What does the Constitution do?

A: It sets up the government.

A: It protects basic rights of Americans.

4. What does “We the People” mean in the Constitution?

A: The power of government comes from the people.

5. What do we call changes to the Constitution?

A: Amendments

6. What is an amendment?

A: It is a change to the Constitution.

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

A: The Bill of Rights

8. Name one right or freedom from the First Amendment.

A: Speech

A: Religion

A: Assembly

A: Press

A: Petition the government

9. How many amendments does the Constitution have?

A: Twenty-seven (27)

10. What did the Declaration of Independence do?

A: Announce the independence of the United States from Great Britain

A: Say that the U.S. is free from Great Britain

11. What does freedom of religion mean?

A: You can practice any religion you want, or not practice at all.

12. What type of economic system does the U.S. have?

A: Capitalist economy

A: Free market

A: Market economy

B: System of Government

13. What are the three branches or parts of the government?

A: Executive, legislative, and judicial

A: Congress, the President, the courts

14. Name one branch or part of the government.

A: Congress

A: Legislative

A: President

A: Executive

A: The courts

A: Judicial

15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?

A: The President

16. Who makes federal laws?

A: Congress

A: The Senate and House (of Representatives)

A: The (U.S. or national) legislature

17. What are the two parts of the United States Congress?

A: The Senate and House (of Representatives)

18. How many United States Senators are there?

A: 100

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

A: Six (6)

20. Name your state's two U.S. Senators.

A: Answers will vary. [For District of Columbia residents and residents of U.S. territories, the answer is that DC (or the territory where the applicant lives) has no U.S. Senators.]

21. How many U.S. Senators does each state have?

A: Two (2)

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

A: 435

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

A: Two (2)

24. Name your U.S. Representative.

A: Answers will vary. [Residents of territories with nonvoting delegates or resident commissioners may provide the name of that representative or commissioner. Also acceptable is any statement that the territory has no (voting) representatives in Congress.]

25. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

A: All citizens in that Senator's state

26. Who does a U.S. Representative represent?

A: All citizens in that Representative's district (each state is divided into districts)

27. What decides each state's number of U.S. Representatives?

A: The state's population

28. How is each state's number of Representatives decided?

A: The state's population

29. Why do we have three branches of government?

A: So no branch is too powerful

30. Name one example of checks and balances.

A: The President vetoes a bill.

A: Congress can confirm or not confirm a President's nomination.

A: Congress approves the President's budget.

A: The Supreme Court strikes down a law.

31. We elect a President for how many years?

A: Four (4) years

32. How old must a President be?

A: Thirty-five (35) or older

A: At least thirty-five (35)

A: More than thirty-five (35)

33. The President must be born in what country?

A: The United States

A: America

34. Who is the President now?

A: [Current president] (as of November 20, 2006, George W. Bush)

35. What is the name of the President of the United States?

A: [Current president] (as of November 20, 2006, George W. Bush)

A: (President) George W. Bush

A: George Bush

A: Bush

36. Who is the Vice President now?

A: [Current vice president] (as of November 20, 2006- Richard (Dick) Cheney)

A: Dick Cheney

A: Cheney

37. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States?

A: [Current vice president] (as of November 20, 2006- Richard (Dick) Cheney)

A: Dick Cheney

A: Cheney

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

A: The Vice President

39. Who becomes President if both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve?

A: The Speaker of the House

40. Who is the Commander-in-Chief of the military?

A: The President

41. How many full terms can a President serve?

A: Two (2)

42. Who signs bills to become laws?

A: The President

43. Who vetoes bills?

A: The President

44. What is a veto?

A: The President refuses to sign a bill passed by Congress.

A: The President says no to a bill.

A: The President rejects a bill.

45. What does the President's Cabinet do?

A: Advises the President

46. Name two Cabinet-level positions.

A: Secretary of Agriculture

A: Secretary of Commerce

A: Secretary of Defense

A: Secretary of Education

A: Secretary of Energy

A: Secretary of Health and Human Services

A: Secretary of Homeland Security

A: Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

A: Secretary of Interior

A: Secretary of State

A: Secretary of Transportation

A: Secretary of Treasury

A: Secretary of Veterans' Affairs

A: Attorney General

47. What Cabinet-level agency advises the President on foreign policy?

A: The State Department

48. What does the judicial branch do?

A: Reviews and explains laws

A: Resolves disputes between parties

A: Decides if a law goes against the Constitution

49. Who confirms Supreme Court justices?

A: The Senate

50. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?

A: John Roberts (John G. Roberts, Jr.)

51. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

A: Nine (9)

52. Who nominates justices to the Supreme Court?

A: The President

53. Name one thing only the federal government can do.

A: Print money

A: Declare war

A: Create an army

A: Make treaties

54. What is one thing only a state government can do?

A: Provide schooling and education

A: Provide protection (police)

A: Provide safety (fire departments)

A: Give a driver's license

A: Approve zoning and land use

55. What does it mean that the U.S. Constitution is a constitution of *limited powers*?

A: The federal government has only the powers that the Constitution states that it has.

A: The states have all powers that the federal government does not.

56. Who is the Governor of your state?

A: Answers will vary.

[District of Columbia and U.S. Territory residents would answer that they do not have a state governor or that they do not live in a state. Mentioning the governor of the territory for Guam is acceptable. Any answer that mentions one of these facts is acceptable.]

57. What is the capital (or capital city) of your state?

A: Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents would answer that DC is not a state, and that therefore it does not have a capital. Any answer that mentions one of these facts is acceptable.]

58. What are the two major political parties in the U.S. today?

A: Democrats and Republicans

59. What is the highest court in the U.S.?

A: The Supreme Court

60. What is the majority political party in the House of Representatives now?

A: Democrats

A: Democratic Party

61. What is the political party of the majority in the Senate now?

A: Democrats

A: Democratic Party

62. What is the political party of the President now?

A: Republicans

A: Republican Party

63. Who is the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

A: Nancy Pelosi

64. Who is the Senate Majority Leader now?

A: Harry Reid

65. In what month are elections held in the United States?

A: November

66. What is the current minimum wage in the U.S.?

A: \$5.15

67. When must all males register for the Selective Service?

A: At age 18

A: At 18

68. Who is the Secretary of State now?

A: Dr. Condoleezza Rice

A: Condoleezza Rice

A: Dr. Rice

69. Who is the Attorney General now?

A: Alberto Gonzales

70. Is the current President in his first or second term?

A: Second

C: Rule of Law

71. What is self-government?

A: Powers come from the people.

A: Government responds to the people.

72. Who governs the people in a self-governed country?

A: The people govern themselves.

A: The government elected by the people.

73. What is the “rule of law”?

A: Everyone must obey the law.

A: Leaders must obey the law.

A: Government must obey the law.

74. What are “inalienable rights”?

A: Individual rights that people are born with

D: Rights and Responsibilities

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

A: Any citizen over 18 can vote.

A: A citizen of any race can vote.

A: Any male or female citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)

A: You don't have to pay to vote. (You don't have to pay a poll tax to vote.)

76. Name one responsibility that is only for United States citizens.

A: Vote

A: Serve on a jury

77. Name two rights that are only for United States citizens.

A: The right to apply for a federal job

A: The right to vote

A: The right to run for office

78. Name two rights of everyone living in the U.S.

A: Freedom of expression

A: Freedom of speech

A: Freedom of assembly

A: Freedom to petition the government

A: Freedom of worship

A: The right to bear arms

79. What is the Pledge of Allegiance?

A: The promise of loyalty to the flag and the nation

80. Name one promise you make when you say the Oath of Allegiance.

A: To give up loyalty to other countries (I give up loyalty to my [old][first][other] country.)

A: To defend the Constitution and laws of the United States

A: To obey the laws of the United States

A: To serve in the United States military if needed (To fight for the United States [if needed].)

A: To serve the nation if needed (To do important work for the United States [if needed].)

A: To be loyal to the United States

81. Who can vote in the U.S.?

A: All citizens over 18

A: All registered citizens over 18

82. Name two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy.

A: Vote

A: Join a political party

- A: Help out with a campaign*
- A: Join a civic group*
- A: Join a community group*
- A: Tell an elected official your opinion on an issue.*
- A: Call your Senators and Representatives*
- A: Publicly support or oppose an issue or policy*
- A: Run for office*
- A: Write to a newspaper*

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

- A: By April 15th of every year*
- A: By April 15th*
- A: April 15*

84. Name two of the natural, or inalienable, rights in the Declaration of Independence.

- A: Life*
- A: Liberty*
- A: The pursuit of happiness*

AMERICAN HISTORY

A: Colonial and Independence

85. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

- A: Thomas Jefferson*

86. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

- A: July 4, 1776*

87. Name one reason why the colonists came to America?

- A: Freedom*
- A: Political liberty*
- A: Religious freedom*
- A: Economic opportunity*
- A: To practice their religion*
- A: To escape persecution*

88. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

- A: The Constitution was written.*
- A: The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.*

89. Why did the colonists fight the British?

- A: They had to pay high taxes but did not have any say about it. (Taxation without representation.)*
- A: The British army stayed in their houses. (boarding, quartering)*
- A: The British denied the colonists self-government.*

90. When was the Constitution drafted?

- A: 1787*

91. There are 13 original states. Name three.

A: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia.

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

A: Africans

A: People from Africa

93. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

A: The Native Americans

A: American Indians

94. Where did most of America's colonists come from before the Revolution?

A: Europe

95. Why were the colonists upset with the British government?

A: Stamp Act

A: They had to pay high taxes but did not have any say about it. (Taxation without representation.)

A: The British army stayed in their houses. (boarding, quartering)

A: Intolerable Acts

96. Name one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for.

A: U.S. diplomat

A: Oldest member of the Constitutional Convention

A: First Postmaster General of the United States

A: Writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac"

97. Name one famous battle from the Revolutionary War.

A: Lexington and Concord

A: Trenton

A: Princeton

A: Saratoga

A: Cowpens

A: Yorktown

A: Bunker Hill

98. Who is called the "Father of Our Country"?

A: George Washington

99. Who was the first President?

A: George Washington

100. Name one of the writers of the Federalist Papers?

A: James Madison

A: Alexander Hamilton

A: John Jay

101. What group of essays supported passage of the U.S. Constitution?

A: The Federalist Papers

102. Name one of the major American Indian tribes in the United States.

A: Cherokee, Seminoles, Creek, Choctaw, Arawak, Iroquois, Shawnee, Mohegan, Chippewa, Huron, Oneida, Sioux, Cheyenne, Lakotas, Crows, Blackfeet, Teton, Navajo, Apaches, Pueblo, Hopi, Inuit [Adjudicators will be supplied with a complete list.]

B: 1800s

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

A: War of 1812, Mexican American War, Civil War, or Spanish-American War.

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

A: The Louisiana Territory

A: Louisiana

105. What country sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States?

A: France

106. In 1803, the United States bought a large amount of land from France. Where was that land?

A: West of the Mississippi

A: The Western U.S.

A: The Louisiana Territory

107. Name one of the things that Abraham Lincoln did.

A: Saved (or preserved) the Union.

A: Freed the slaves

A: Led the U.S. during the Civil War.

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

A: The Civil War

109. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

A: Slavery

A: Economic reasons

A: States' rights

110. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

A: Freed slaves in the Confederacy

A: Freed slaves in the Confederate states

A: Freed slaves in most Southern states

111. What did the abolitionists try to end before the Civil War?

A: Slavery

112. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

A: She fought for women's rights.

C: Recent American History

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

A: World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, or Gulf (or Persian Gulf) War

114. Who was President during World War I?

A: Woodrow Wilson

115. The United States fought Japan, Germany, and Italy during which war?

A: World War II

116. What was the main concern of the United States during the Cold War?

A: The spread of communism

A: The Soviet Union [USSR and Russia are also acceptable.]

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

A: Terrorists attacked The United States.

118. What international organization was established after World War II (WWII) to keep the world at peace?

A: The United Nations

119. What alliance of North America and European countries was created during the Cold War?

A: NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

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

A: Franklin Roosevelt

121. Which U.S. World War II general later became President?

A: Dwight Eisenhower

122. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

A: He fought for civil rights.

A: He strove for (worked for, fought for) equality for all Americans.

123. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream for America. What was his dream?

A: Equality for all Americans

A: Civil rights for all

124. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

A: The civil rights movement

INTEGRATED CIVICS

A: Geography

125. What is the longest river in the United States?

A: The Mississippi River

126. What ocean is on the west coast of the United States?

A: The Pacific Ocean

127. What country is on the northern border of the United States?

A: Canada

128. Where is the Grand Canyon?

A: Arizona

A: The Southwest

A: Along/on the Colorado River

129. Where is the Statue of Liberty?

A: New York Harbor

A: Liberty Island

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

130. What country is on the southern border of the United States?

A: Mexico

131. Name one large mountain range in the United States.

A: The Rocky Mountains

A: The Appalachians

A: The Sierra Nevada

A: The Cascades

132. What is the tallest mountain in the United States?

A: Mt. McKinley

A: Denali

133. Name one U.S. territory.

A: American Samoa

A: The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

A: Guam

A: Puerto Rico

A: U.S. Virgin Islands

134. Name the state that is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

A: Hawaii

135. Name one state that borders Canada.

A: Alaska, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, or Washington

136. Name one state that borders on Mexico.

A: Arizona, California, New Mexico, or Texas

137. What is the capital of the U.S.?

A: Washington, D.C.

B: Symbols

138. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

A: Because there were 13 original colonies

A: Because the stripes represent the original colonies

139. Why do we have 13 stripes on the flag?

A: Because there were 13 original colonies

A: Because the stripes represent the original colonies

140. Why does the flag have 50 stars?

A: There is one star for each state.

A: Each star represents a state.

A: There are 50 states.

141. What is the name of the National Anthem?

A: The "Star-Spangled Banner"

C: Holidays

142. On the Fourth of July we celebrate independence from what country?

A: Great Britain

143. When do we celebrate Independence Day?

A: July 4

144. Name two national U.S. holidays.

A: New Year's Day

A: Martin Luther King Day

A: Presidents' Day

A: Memorial Day

A: Independence Day

A: Labor Day

A: Columbus Day

A: Veterans Day

A: Thanksgiving

A: Christmas



Current U.S. History and Government Questions on the Naturalization Exam

Question 1. What are the colors of our flag?

A1. Red, white, and blue

Question 2. What do the stars on the flag mean?

A2. One for each state

Question 3. How many stars are there on our flag?

A3. There are 50 stars on our flag.

Question 4. What color are the stars on our flag?

A4. The stars on our flag are white.

Question 5. How many stripes are there on our flag?

A5. There are 13 stripes on our flag.

Question 6. What do the stripes on the flag represent?

A6. The first 13 states

Question 7. What colors are the stripes on the flag?

A7. The stripes on the flag are red and white.

Question 8. How many states are there in the Union (the United States)?

A8. 50 states

Question 9. What do we celebrate on the 4th of July?

A9. Independence Day

Question 10. Independence Day celebrates independence from whom?

A10. Independence from Great Britain

Question 11. What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?

A11. We fought Great Britain in the Revolutionary War.

Question 12. Who was the first president of the United States?

A12. George Washington

Question 13. Who is the President of the United States today?

A13. George W. Bush

Question 14. Who is the Vice President of the United States today?

A14. Dick Cheney

Question 15. Who elects the President of the United States?

A15. The Electoral College

Question 16. Who becomes President if the President dies?

A16. The Vice President

Question 17. What is the Constitution?

A17. The supreme law of the land

Question 18. What do we call changes to the Constitution?

A18. Amendments

Question 19. How many changes, or amendments, are there to the Constitution?

A19. Twenty-seven amendments

Question 20. What are the three branches of our government?

A20. Executive, Judicial, and Legislative

Question 21. What is the legislative branch of our Government?

A21. Congress

Question 22. What makes up Congress?

A22. The Senate and the House of Representatives

Question 23. Who makes the Federal laws in the United States?

A23. Congress

Question 24. Who elects Congress?

A24. The citizens of the United States

Question 25. How many Senators are there in Congress?

A25. There are 100 Senators in Congress, 2 from each state.

Question 26. For how long do we elect each Senator?

A26. 6 years

Question 27. Name two Senators from your state.

A27. The answer to this question depends on where you live.

Question 28. How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?

A28. There are 435 voting members in the House of Representatives.

Question 29. For how long do we elect each member of the House of Representatives?

A29. For 2 years

Question 30. Who is the head of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government?

A30. The President

Question 31. For how long is the President elected?

A31. The President is elected for 4 years.

Question 32. What is the highest part of the Judiciary Branch of our Government?

A32. The Supreme Court

Question 33. What are the duties of the Supreme Court?

A33. To interpret and explain the laws

Question 34. What is the supreme law of the United States?

A34. The Constitution

Question 35. What is the Bill of Rights?

A35. The first 10 amendments to the Constitution

Question 36. What is the capital of the state you live in?

A36. The answer to this question depends on the state where you reside. To learn the capital of your state, go to <http://www.firstgov.gov> and select the state government link.

Question 37. Who is the current Governor of the state you live in?

A37. The answer to this question depends on where you live. To learn the name of the Governor of your state, go to <http://www.firstgov.gov> and select the state government link.

Question 38. Who becomes President if both the President and Vice President die?

A38. The Speaker of the House

Question 39. Who is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

A39. John G. Roberts, Jr.

Question 40. What were the original 13 states?

A40. Virginia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Georgia

Question 41. Who said, "Give me liberty or give me death"?

A41. Patrick Henry

Question 42. Name some countries that were our enemies during World War II.

A42. Germany, Italy, and Japan

Question 43. What was the 49th state added to our Union (the United States)?

A43. Alaska

Question 44. How many full terms can a President serve?

A44. Two full terms

Question 45. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?

A45. A civil rights leader

Question 46. What are some of the requirements to be eligible to become President?

A46. A candidate for President must • be a native-born, not naturalized, citizen, • be at least 35 years old, and • have lived in the U.S. for at least 14 years.

Question 47. Why are there 100 Senators in the United States Senate?

A47. Each state elects 2 Senators.

Question 48. Who nominates judges for the Supreme Court?

A48. The President nominates judges for the Supreme Court.

Question 49. How many Supreme Court Justices are there?

A49. There are 9 Supreme Court Justices.

Question 50. Why did the Pilgrims come to America?

A50. To gain religious freedom

Question 51. What is the executive of a state government called?

A51. The Governor

Question 52. What is the head executive of a city government called?

A52. The Mayor

Question 53. What holiday was celebrated for the first time by American colonists?

A53. Thanksgiving

Question 54. Who was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence?

A54. Thomas Jefferson

Question 55. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

A55. July 4, 1776

Question 56. What are some of the basic beliefs of the Declaration of Independence?

A56. That all men are created equal and have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

Question 57. What is the national anthem of the United States?

A57. The Star-Spangled Banner

Question 58. Who wrote *The Star-Spangled Banner*?

A58. Francis Scott Key

Question 59. What is the minimum voting age in the United States?

A59. 18 is the minimum voting age.

Question 60. Who signs bills into law?

A60. The President

Question 61. What is the highest court in the United States?

A61. The Supreme Court

Question 62. Who was President during the Civil War?

A62. Abraham Lincoln

Question 63. What did the *Emancipation Proclamation* do?

A63. The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves.

Question 64. What special group advises the President?

A64. The Cabinet advises the President.

Question 65. Which President is called the “Father of our Country”?

A65. George Washington

Question 66. Which President was the first Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Army and Navy?

A66. George Washington

Question 67. What was the 50th state to be added to our Union (the United States)?

A67. Hawaii

Question 68. Who helped the Pilgrims in America?

A68. The American Indians/Native Americans

Question 69. What is the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?

A69. The Mayflower

Question 70. What were the 13 original states of the United States called before they were states?

A70. Colonies

Question 71. What group has the power to declare war?

A71. Congress has the power to declare war.

Question 72. Name the amendments that guarantee or address voting rights.

A72. The 15th, 19th, 24th and 26th amendments

Question 73. In what year was the Constitution written?

A73. The Constitution was written in 1787.

Question 74. What are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution called?

A74. The Bill of Rights

Question 75. Whose rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?

A75. All people living in the United States

Question 76. What is the introduction to the Constitution called?

A76. The Preamble

Question 77. Who meets in the U.S. Capitol building?

A77. Congress

Question 78. What is the name of the President's official home?

A78. The White House

Question 79. Where is the White House located?

A79. Washington, DC

Question 80. Name one right or freedom guaranteed by the first amendment.

A80. The rights of freedom of religion, of speech, of the press, of assembly, and to petition the Government

Question 81. Who is Commander-in-Chief of the United States military?

A81. The President

Question 82. In what month do we vote for the President?

A82. November

Question 83. In what month is the new President inaugurated?

A83. January

Question 84. How many times may a Senator or Congressman be re-elected?

A84. There is no limit.

Question 85. What are the two major political parties in the United States today?

A85. The Democratic and Republican parties

Question 86. What is the executive branch of our government?

A86. The President, the Cabinet, and departments under the cabinet members

Question 87. Where does freedom of speech come from?

A87. The Bill of Rights

Question 88. What U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services form is used to apply for naturalized citizenship?

A88. Form N-400 (Application for Naturalization)

Question 89. What kind of government does the United States have?

A89. A Republic

Question 90. Name one of the purposes of the United Nations.

A90. For countries to discuss and try to resolve world problems or to provide economic aid to many countries

Question 91. Name one benefit of being a citizen of the United States.

A91. To obtain Federal government jobs, to travel with a U.S. passport, or to petition for close relatives to come to the United States to live

Question 92. Can the Constitution be changed?

A92. Yes, the Constitution can be changed.

Question 93. What is the most important right granted to United States citizens?

A93. The right to vote

Question 94. What is the White House?

A94. The President's official home

Question 95. What is the United States Capitol?

A95. The place where Congress meets

Question 96. How many branches are there in the United States government?

A96. There are 3 branches