All 128 Civics Questions and Answers (2025 Test)

These are all 128 civics questions from the official 2025 USCIS list. At your interview, the officer asks up to 20 of them out loud, and you need 12 correct answers to pass. Click any question for an explanation, or test yourself with the free practice test.

Principles of American Government 15 questions

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 | Protects the rights of the people

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

Self-government | Popular sovereignty | Consent of the governed | People should govern themselves | Social contract

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. | It identifies individual freedoms.

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 | Natural rights | Limited government | Self-government

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. | No one is above the law.

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

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

15. **There are three branches of government. Why?**

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

System of Government 47 questions

16. **Name the three branches of government.**

Legislative | Executive | Judicial

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. legislature | 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?

Answer depends on where you live. See answers by state.

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.

Answer depends on where you live. See answers by state.

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

The current Speaker of the House of Representatives

As of May 26, 2026: Mike Johnson.

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 | People in their district

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?

The current President of the United States

As of May 26, 2026: Donald J. Trump.

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

The current Vice President of the United States

As of May 26, 2026: JD Vance.

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 | Commander in Chief of the military | Chief diplomat | Appoints federal judges

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

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
Secretary of Defense
Secretary of Education
Secretary of Energy
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Secretary of Homeland Security
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Secretary of the Interior
Secretary of Labor
Secretary of State
Secretary of Transportation
Secretary of the Treasury
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Secretary of War
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

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 about the law
Decides if a law goes against the U.S. Constitution

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?

The current Chief Justice of the United States

As of May 26, 2026: John Roberts.

58. Name one power that is only for the federal government.

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

59. Name one power that is only for the states.

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

60. What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment?

Powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or to the people.

61. **Who is the governor of your state now?**

Answer depends on where you live. See answers by state.

62. **What is the capital of your state?**

Answer depends on where you live. See answers by state.

Rights and Responsibilities 10 questions

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.
- A male citizen of any race can vote.

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

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
- Serve in the military if needed
- Serve the nation if needed
- Be loyal to the United States

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
- 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

70. **What is one way Americans can serve their country?**

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

71. **Why is it important to pay federal taxes?**

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

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

Colonial Period and Independence 17 questions

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

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

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 | They did not have self-government | Boston Massacre | Boston Tea Party | Tea Act | Stamp Act | Sugar Act | Townshend Acts | Intolerable Acts | Coercive Acts

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 | Battle of Saratoga | Valley Forge | Battle of Yorktown | British surrender at Yorktown

81. **There were 13 original states. Name five.**

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

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 | Publius

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 | Inventor | U.S. diplomat

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

87. **Thomas Jefferson is famous for many things. Name one.**

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

88. **James Madison is famous for many things. Name one.**

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

89. **Alexander Hamilton is famous for many things. Name one.**

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

1800s 10 questions

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

- Louisiana Territory
- Louisiana

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

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

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
- Battle of Gettysburg
- Sherman's March
- Surrender at Appomattox
- Battle of Antietam
- Battle of Sharpsburg
- Lincoln was assassinated.

94. **Abraham Lincoln is famous for many things. Name one.**

Freed the slaves | Emancipation Proclamation | Saved the Union | Preserved the Union | Led the United States during the Civil War | 16th president of the United States | Delivered the Gettysburg Address

95. **What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?**

Freed the slaves | Freed slaves in the Confederacy | Freed slaves in the Confederate states | Freed slaves in most Southern states

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 | 1870

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

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

Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information 19 questions

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

World War I | World War II | Korean War | Vietnam War | Persian Gulf War

101. **Why did the United States enter World War I?**

Because Germany attacked U.S. civilian ships | To support the Allied Powers | To oppose the Central Powers

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 | To oppose the Axis Powers

107. **Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one.**

General during World War II | President at the end of the Korean War | 34th president of the United States | Signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956

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

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
- Terrorists took over a plane originally aimed at Washington, D.C., and crashed in a field in Pennsylvania

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 | Cherokee | Cheyenne | Chippewa | Choctaw | Creek | Crow | Hopi | Huron | Inupiat | Lakota | Mohawk | Mohegan | Navajo | Oneida | Onondaga | Pueblo | Seminole | Seneca | Shawnee | Sioux | Teton | Tuscarora

118. Name one example of an American innovation.

Light bulb | Automobile | Cars | Internal combustion engine | Skyscrapers | Airplane | Assembly line | Landing on the moon | Integrated circuit | IC

Symbols 6 questions

119. What is the capital of the United States?

Washington, D.C.

120. Where is the Statue of Liberty?

New York | New York Harbor | Liberty Island | New Jersey | Near New York City | 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

Holidays 4 questions

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

Memorial Day

Juneteenth

Independence Day

Labor Day

Columbus Day

Veterans Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day

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