

U.S. Citizenship Test Questions & Answers

BOUNDLESS

* If you are 65 years or older and have been a green card holder for 20 or more years, you only need to study the questions marked with an asterisk.

**What is the supreme law
of the land?**

1

QUESTION

**What does the
Constitution do?**

2

QUESTION

ANSWER

1

the Constitution

ANSWER

2

- **sets up the government**
- **defines the government**
- **protects basic rights
of Americans**

The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?

3

QUESTION

What is an amendment?

4

QUESTION

ANSWER

3

We the People

ANSWER

4

- a change (to the Constitution)
- an addition (to the Constitution)

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

5

QUESTION

What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?*

6

QUESTION

ANSWER

5

the Bill of Rights

ANSWER

6

- speech
- religion
- assembly
- press
- petition the government

**How many amendments
does the Constitution
have?**

7

QUESTION

ANSWER

7

twenty-seven (27)

**What did the Declaration
of Independence do?**

8

QUESTION

ANSWER

8

- **announced our independence
(from Great Britain)**
- **declared our independence
(from Great Britain)**
- **said that the United States is free
(from Great Britain)**

What are two rights
in the Declaration of
Independence?

6

QUESTION

What is freedom
of religion?

10

QUESTION

ANSWER

9

- life
- liberty
- pursuit of happiness

ANSWER

10

You can practice any
religion, or not practice
a religion.

What is the economic system in the United States?*

11

QUESTION

What is the "rule of law"?

12

QUESTION

ANSWER

11

- capitalist economy
- market economy

ANSWER

12

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

Name one branch or part of the government.*

13

QUESTION

What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

14

QUESTION

ANSWER

13

- Congress
- legislative
- President
- executive
- the courts
- judicial

ANSWER

14

- checks and balances
- separation of powers

Who is in charge of the executive branch?

15

QUESTION

Who makes federal laws?

16

QUESTION

ANSWER

15

the President

ANSWER

16

- **Congress**
- **Senate and House (of Representatives)**
- **(U.S. or national) legislature**

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

17

QUESTION

How many U.S. Senators
are there?

18

QUESTION

ANSWER

17

the Senate and House
(of Representatives)

ANSWER

18

one hundred (100)

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

19

QUESTION

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

20

QUESTION

ANSWER

19

six (6)

ANSWER

20

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.]

**The House of
Representatives
has how many
voting members?**

21

QUESTION

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

22

QUESTION

ANSWER

21

**four hundred thirty-five
(435)**

ANSWER

22

two (2)

Name your U.S. Representative.

23

QUESTION

Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

24

QUESTION

ANSWER

23

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.]

ANSWER

24

all people of the state

Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

25

QUESTION

We elect a President for how many years?

26

QUESTION

ANSWER

25

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

ANSWER

26

four (4)

In what month do we vote
for President?*

27

QUESTION

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

28

QUESTION

ANSWER

27

November

ANSWER

28

Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/
testupdates](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the name of
the President of the United
States.

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

29

QUESTION

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

30

QUESTION

ANSWER

29

Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/
testupdates](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the name
of the Vice President of the
United States.

ANSWER

30

the Vice President

**If both the President
and the Vice President
can no longer serve,
who becomes President?**

31

QUESTION

**Who is the Commander
in Chief of the military?**

32

QUESTION

ANSWER

31

the Speaker of the House

ANSWER

32

the President

Who signs bills to
become laws?

33

QUESTION

Who vetoes bills?

34

QUESTION

ANSWER

33

the President

ANSWER

34

the President

What does the President's Cabinet do?

35

QUESTION

What are two Cabinet-level positions?

36

QUESTION

ANSWER

35

advises the President

ANSWER

36

- Secretary of Agriculture
 - Secretary of Commerce
 - Secretary of Defense
 - Secretary of Education
 - Secretary of Energy
 - Secretary of Health and Human Services
 - Secretary of Homeland Security
 - Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
 - Secretary of the Interior
 - Secretary of Labor
 - Secretary of State
 - Secretary of Transportation
 - Secretary of the Treasury
 - Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 - Attorney General
 - Vice President
- BOUNDLESS

**What does the judicial
branch do?**

37

QUESTION

**What is the highest court
in the United States?**

38

QUESTION

ANSWER

37

- reviews laws
- explains laws
- resolves disputes
(disagreements)
- decides if a law goes
against the Constitution

ANSWER

38

the Supreme Court

How many justices are
on the Supreme Court?

39

QUESTION

Who is the Chief Justice
of the United States now?

40

QUESTION

ANSWER

39

Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/
testupdates](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the number
of justices on the Supreme
Court.

ANSWER

40

Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/
testupdates](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the name
of the Chief Justice of the
United States.

Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?

41

QUESTION

ANSWER

41

- to print money
- to declare war
- to create an army
- to make treaties

Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?

42

QUESTION

ANSWER

42

- provide schooling and education
- provide protection (police)
- provide safety
(fire departments)
- give a driver's license
- approve zoning and land use

**Who is the Governor
of your state now?**

43

QUESTION

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

44

QUESTION

ANSWER

43

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

ANSWER

44

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.]

What are the two major political parties in the United States?*

45

QUESTION

ANSWER

45

Democratic and Republican

What is the political party of the President now?

46

QUESTION

ANSWER

46

Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the political party of the President.

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

47

QUESTION

ANSWER

47

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

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

48

QUESTION

ANSWER

48

- 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 is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?*

49

QUESTION

Name one right only for United States citizens.

50

QUESTION

ANSWER

49

- serve on a jury
- vote in a federal election

ANSWER

50

- vote in a federal election
- run for federal office

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

51

QUESTION

ANSWER

51

- freedom of expression
- freedom of speech
- freedom of assembly
- freedom to petition the government
- freedom of religion
- the right to bear arms

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

52

QUESTION

ANSWER

52

- the United States
- the flag

What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?

53

QUESTION

ANSWER

53

- give up loyalty to other countries
- defend the Constitution and laws of the United States
- obey the laws of the United States
- serve in the U.S. military (if needed)
- serve (do important work for) the nation (if needed)
- be loyal to the United States

How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?*

54

QUESTION

ANSWER

54

eighteen (18) and older

What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?

55

QUESTION

ANSWER

55

- vote
- join a political party
- help with a campaign
- join a civic group
- join a community group
- give an elected official your opinion on an issue
- call Senators and Representatives
- publicly support or oppose an issue or policy
- run for office
- write to a newspaper

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

56

QUESTION

ANSWER

56

April 15

When must all men register for the Selective Service?

57

QUESTION

What is one reason colonists came to America?

58

QUESTION

ANSWER

57

- at age eighteen (18)
- between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)

ANSWER

58

- freedom
- political liberty
- religious freedom
- economic opportunity
- practice their religion
- escape persecution

Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

59

QUESTION

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

60

QUESTION

ANSWER

59

- American Indians
- Native Americans

ANSWER

60

- Africans
- people from Africa

Why did the colonists fight the British?

61

QUESTION

ANSWER

61

- because of high taxes (taxation without representation)
- because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)
- because they didn't have self-government

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

62

QUESTION

ANSWER

62

(Thomas) Jefferson

When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

63

QUESTION

ANSWER

63

July 4, 1776

There were 13 original states. Name three.

64

QUESTION

ANSWER

64

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

What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

65

QUESTION

When was the Constitution written?

66

QUESTION

ANSWER

65

- The Constitution was written.
- The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.

ANSWER

66

1787

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

67

QUESTION

What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

68

QUESTION

ANSWER

67

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

ANSWER

68

- U.S. diplomat
- oldest member of the Constitutional Convention
- first Postmaster General of the United States
- writer of “Poor Richard’s Almanac”
- started the first free libraries

Who is the "Father of
Our Country"?

69

QUESTION

Who was the first
President?*

70

QUESTION

ANSWER

69

(George) Washington

ANSWER

70

(George) Washington

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

71

QUESTION

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

72

QUESTION

ANSWER

71

- the Louisiana Territory
- Louisiana

ANSWER

72

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

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

73

QUESTION

ANSWER

73

- **the Civil War**
- **the War between the States**

Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

74

QUESTION

ANSWER

74

- **slavery**
- **economic reasons**
- **states' rights**

What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln **did**?

75

QUESTION

What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

76

QUESTION

ANSWER

75

- freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)
- saved (or preserved) the Union
- led the United States during the Civil War

ANSWER

76

- freed the slaves
- freed slaves in the Confederacy
- freed slaves in the Confederate states
- freed slaves in most Southern states

What did Susan B. Anthony do?

77

QUESTION

ANSWER

77

- fought for women's rights
- fought for civil rights

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

78

QUESTION

ANSWER

78

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

Who was President during
World War I?

79

QUESTION

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

80

QUESTION

ANSWER

79

(Woodrow) Wilson

ANSWER

80

(Franklin) Roosevelt

Who did the United States fight in World War II?

81

QUESTION

Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?

82

QUESTION

ANSWER

81

Japan, Germany, and Italy

ANSWER

82

World War II

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

83

QUESTION

What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

84

QUESTION

ANSWER

83

Communism

ANSWER

84

civil rights (movement)

What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?*

85

QUESTION

ANSWER

85

- fought for civil rights
- worked for equality for all Americans

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

86

QUESTION

ANSWER

86

Terrorists attacked the United States.

Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

87

QUESTION

Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

88

QUESTION

ANSWER

87

Cherokee
Navajo
Sioux
Chippewa
Choctaw
Pueblo
Apache
Iroquois
Creek
Blackfeet

Seminole
Cheyenne
Arawak
Shawnee
Mohegan
Huron
Oneida
Lakota
Crow
Teton

Hopi
Inuit

ANSWER

88

- Missouri (River)
- Mississippi (River)

What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

68

QUESTION

What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?

69

QUESTION

ANSWER

89

Pacific (Ocean)

ANSWER

90

Atlantic (Ocean)

Name one U.S. territory.

16

QUESTION

Name one state that borders Canada.

26

QUESTION

ANSWER

91

- Puerto Rico
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- American Samoa
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Guam

ANSWER

92

- Maine
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Ohio
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- North Dakota
- Montana
- Idaho
- Washington
- Alaska

Name one state that borders Mexico.

93

QUESTION

ANSWER

93

- California
- Arizona
- New Mexico
- Texas

What is the capital of the United States?*

94

QUESTION

ANSWER

94

Washington, D.C.

Where is the Statue of Liberty?*

95

QUESTION

Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

96

QUESTION

ANSWER

95

- New York (Harbor)
- Liberty Island

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

ANSWER

96

- because there were 13 original colonies
- because the stripes represent the original colonies

Why does the flag have 50 stars?*

97

QUESTION

ANSWER

97

- because there is one star for each state
- because each star represents a state
- because there are 50 states

What is the name of the national anthem?

98

QUESTION

ANSWER

98

The Star-Spangled Banner

When do we celebrate Independence Day?*

96

QUESTION

Name two national U.S. holidays.

100

QUESTION

ANSWER

99

July 4

ANSWER

100

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas