

Become a U.S. Citizen

A guide for permanent residents to become
U.S. citizens through naturalization



IMMIGRATION INSIDER SERIES





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¹ [USCIS Lockbox Intake Processing](#)

What's in the Guide

This guide is for permanent residents considering the naturalization process. It answers many of the common questions and offers numerous resources to help make naturalization as a U.S. citizen a reality. The guide covers:

- ✓ Why Now is a Good Time
- ✓ Eligibility for Naturalization
- ✓ How to Apply for Naturalization
- ✓ Paying for Naturalization
- ✓ Preparing for the Interview
- ✓ Preparing for the Tests
- ✓ Appendix: English Test Words
- ✓ Appendix: Civics Test Questions

If you are interested in other naturalization-related tips and how-to information, please visit the CitizenPath website at www.CitizenPath.com.

Why Now is a Good Time

There's never been a better time to become a U.S. citizen. It's less expensive than remaining a permanent resident, and U.S. citizens get priority over permanent residents when it comes to getting a green card for a relative. You'll also have the opportunity to vote in upcoming elections. Consider this:

It's Less Expensive to Be a U.S. Citizen

Just 20 years ago, it only cost \$75 to renew a green card². The fee has already risen to \$540. That's almost five times the cost! Every ten years a permanent resident will pay \$540 to renew a green card. Don't forget, if your green card is lost, stolen or damaged, it will cost another \$540 to replace it. What's more, USCIS fees keep rising.

On the other hand, the one-time USCIS fee for the naturalization application is \$725. Sure, this is a bit more expensive in the short term, but U.S. citizenship is good for a lifetime. Over the course of many years, it is significantly less expensive. After all, you won't ever have to pay another USCIS fee again! The difference is staggering. Use our [Citizenship Cost Calculator](#) to see your cost comparison.

In the long term, USCIS filing fees for naturalization are far less expensive than maintaining permanent resident status. It's more cost-effective to become a U.S. citizen.

U.S. Citizens Get Priority Service

If you travel abroad or want to help other family members obtain a green card, U.S. citizens get the VIP service. There's no comparison.

² ["INS Relents, Extends Green Cards to 1996" LA Times, March 17, 1995.](#)

Those who want to travel outside the United States or petition more family members to immigrate to the U.S. will get priority over permanent residents.

U.S. citizens have the privilege of helping immediate family members obtain a green card much faster than permanent residents can.³ That's because the number of immediate relative (spouses, unmarried children and parents) immigrant visas is unlimited. There is no cap. On the other hand, family preference immigrant visas are for relatives of lawful permanent residents. Unfortunately, there are a limited number of visas issued for each category. As a result, there can be very long wait times that span several years.

What's more, a child born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent or parents may acquire U.S. citizenship at birth. This is not the case for permanent resident parents.

There are tremendous benefits of obtaining a U.S. passport. A U.S. passport will allow a traveler entry into most countries around the world without a hassle. Specific countries that work with the United States on the Visa Waiver Program will allow entry to U.S. passport holders for a specific amount of time, so you won't need to purchase a visa to travel there. A U.S. passport also allows a U.S. citizen to get assistance from the American government when overseas.

U.S. Citizenship Lasts Forever

Few people expect to be arrested for a crime. But the risks for a permanent resident are much higher. A criminal record can create

³ [Green Card for an Immediate Relative of a U.S. Citizen, USCIS](#)

a major (and expensive) problem just to renew a green card. In the worst cases, permanent residence can be revoked.

Every time a permanent resident reenters the United States after traveling abroad, reentry is at the discretion of a Customs & Border Protection (CBP) officer. The CBP officer has the power to refuse entry and make life miserable for the permanent resident. An old photo or discrepancy of information could create another time-consuming and expensive headache.

On the other hand, citizenship is good for life. U.S. citizenship can only be revoked in extraordinary circumstances such as crime against the state⁴.

The Immigration Debate Needs You

The immigration debate is in full swing. Major decisions about immigration policy are expected to be made over the next few years. This may directly affect your family.

Only U.S. citizens may vote in federal elections. Most states also restrict the right to vote, in most elections, to U.S. citizens. This is a powerful right that gives U.S. citizens the ability to steer the American government on decisions related to immigration reform, healthcare and the next U.S. President.

If you want to vote in future elections, now is the time to apply for U.S. citizenship.

⁴ [USCIS Policy Manual, Volume 12, Chapter 2](#)

Don't Forget All the Other Great Benefits

When you become a U.S. citizen, there are more job opportunities. In fact, most jobs with government agencies require U.S. citizenship.

Some naturalized citizens want to take a more active role governing America. Many elected offices in this country require U.S. citizenship.

In many cases only U.S. citizens are eligible for the financial aid grants made by the government, including college scholarships.

And of course, becoming a U.S. citizen is a way to demonstrate patriotism for your new country.

Eligibility for Naturalization

If you're a lawful permanent resident (green card holder), you may be eligible to become a U.S. citizen through a process called naturalization. For foreign-born persons, naturalization is the most common way to become a U.S. citizen. There are several requirements that must be fulfilled before an individual can apply for citizenship.

The majority of naturalization applicants are eligible on the basis of 5 years with permanent resident status, but there are exceptions. The most common exceptions are for permanent residents who have been married to a U.S. citizen for 3 years (page 11) and permanent residents with U.S. citizen spouses working abroad (page 12).

5 Year Permanent Resident

If you are applying on the basis of 5 years with permanent resident status, you must meet the following requirements to be eligible for naturalization⁵:

✓ **Be at least 18 years old**

✓ **Be a permanent resident for at least 5 years**

You must have your permanent resident status for at least 5 years before you are eligible to naturalize. Your time as a permanent resident begins the day you were granted

⁵ Title III, Chapter 2 of the INA

permanent resident status. The date can be found on your green card next to “Resident Since.”

✔ **Have lived within the state for at least 3 months before filing the application**

You must have lived within the same state (or USCIS district with jurisdiction over the applicant's place of residence) for at least 3 months prior to the date of filing your application.

✔ **Have continuous residence in the U.S. as a permanent resident for 5 years before filing the application**

Continuous residence means that the applicant has maintained residence within the United States for the last five years. It's okay if you've traveled abroad for a short trip or moved to another state. The continuous residence requirement helps you demonstrate that you have begun to integrate with American community and have made the U.S. a permanent home.

Have you taken any trips abroad that lasted 6 months or longer? If so, you may have disrupted your continuous residence. Please contact an immigration attorney before filing.

If you are engaged in certain kinds of overseas employment — such as working for the U.S. government or U.S. armed forces — you may be eligible for an exception to the continuous residence requirement.

✔ **Be physically present in the U.S. for at least 30 months out of the 5 years before filing the application**

Physical presence refers to the period of time the applicant must be physically present in the United States during the five years prior to filing the application. Like continuous residence, the physical presence requirement helps you demonstrate that you have begun to integrate with American community and intend to stay in the U.S. Therefore, you must be physically present in the United States for at least 30 months out of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of filing your application.

Physical presence is a cumulative requirement. Therefore, you must combine the number of days of all your trips outside the U.S.

If you are engaged in certain kinds of overseas employment — such as working for the U.S. government or U.S. armed forces — you may be eligible for an exception to the physical presence requirement.

✔ **Be able to pass the English test as well as U.S. history and government test**

You must be able to read, write, and speak English and have knowledge and an understanding of U.S. history and government (also known as civics). USCIS provides study materials for both tests.

USCIS does provide some English language exceptions and medical disability exceptions to English and civics portions of the naturalization requirements for those who qualify. USCIS also provides accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

✔ **Be a person of good moral character**

Everybody makes mistakes; you aren't expected to be perfect. The United States wants new citizens to be of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well-disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States. Generally, minor crimes will not prevent someone from naturalizing. Traffic tickets do not need to be reported. If you have a criminal record, speak to an immigration attorney before applying for naturalization.

If you're not eligible to become a U.S. citizen as a five-year permanent resident, you may be eligible in one of several other categories. The most common two are for a 3-Year Permanent Resident Married to a U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident with a U.S. Citizen Spouse Working Abroad:

3 Year Permanent Resident Married to a U.S. Citizen

If you have been a permanent resident for 3 three years, and you have been married to a U.S. citizen for at least three years, you may also be eligible for naturalization. Your spouse must have been a U.S. citizen for the last 3 years and at the time of filing the application.

Additionally, the physical presence requirement is reduced for this eligibility category. You must only be physically present in the U.S. for 18 months out of the 3 years before you file the application.

Spouses of U.S. citizens that have already been permanent residents for 5 years will generally apply under the general 5 year provision. There is less documentation required, and most people find it an easier process than applying as a 3 year permanent resident married to a U.S. citizen.

Permanent Resident with a U.S. Citizen Spouse Working Abroad⁶

If you are a permanent resident, and you are the spouse of a U.S. citizen that is regularly engaged in qualifying employment abroad, you may also be eligible for naturalization.

Spouses otherwise eligible under this provision are exempt from the continuous residence and physical presence requirements for naturalization. That means that the applicant must only be a permanent resident at the time of filing the naturalization application and time spent outside the U.S. will not affect eligibility. Qualifying employment abroad means to be under employment contract or orders and to assume the duties of employment in any of following entities or positions⁷:

- ✓ U.S. government (including the U.S. armed forces);
- ✓ American institution of research recognized as such by the Attorney General;
- ✓ American firm or corporation engaged in whole or in part in the development of foreign trade and commerce of the United States, or a subsidiary thereof;
- ✓ Public international organization in which the United States participates by treaty or statute;
- ✓ Authorized to perform the ministerial or priestly functions of a religious denomination having a bona fide organization within the United States; or

⁶ Section 319(b) of the INA

⁷ Section 319(b)(1)(B) of the INA

- ✔ Engaged solely as a missionary by a religious denomination or by an interdenominational mission organization having a bona fide organization within the United States.

How to Apply for Naturalization

Permanent residents that want to apply for U.S. citizenship through naturalization must file Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.

Getting the Application

Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, can be downloaded from the USCIS website at [USCIS.gov/n-400](https://uscis.gov/n-400).

For people that want the reassurance that they're applying correctly, CitizenPath provides a self-help service that gives simple, step-by-step instructions and a guarantee that USCIS will accept the application. Learn more and get a discount on page 24. Or get started at CitizenPath.com/N-400.

Preparing to Apply

Form N-400 is an extensive application. Here's a check list of information to have available when you prepare the application:

- ✔ **Permanent Resident Card** (green card)

You'll need to have your Alien Registration Number and date that you become a permanent resident. Both can be found on your green card. If your green card is expired, you may prepare Form N-400. However, if your green card has been lost, stolen, or destroyed, you'll need to file Form I-90 to replace your card before applying for citizenship.

- ✔ **Social Security Number**

It isn't mandatory that you have a Social Security number. If you have one, you'll include it on your application.

✔ **Travel Dates**

If you made any trips outside the U.S. during the five years that precede the application, you'll need to document the dates of each trip (of 24 hours or more).

It can be difficult to remember specific travel dates. If you traveled by air or sea, you may be able to find this information on the Customs and Border Protection's I-94 website at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/>.

✔ **Selective Service Registration Information**

U.S. law requires that every U.S. male between the ages of 18 and 26 register for the Selective Service. This requirement applies to citizens, permanent residents, refugees, asylees, and even undocumented aliens. It does not apply to women or any foreigners in the United States with non-immigrant visas (e.g. tourists, students, business, etc.).

If you've already registered, you can get an instant Official Letter of Registration at www.sss.gov.

If you did not register and are still within this age range, you must register at www.sss.gov.

If you failed to register as required, you should not apply for U.S. citizenship until age 31. If you apply before this 5 year period has passed, your application will mostly likely be denied on the basis of not meeting the good moral character requirement.

✓ **5 Years of Address Information**

You'll need to list your address(es) where you lived for the past five years (or three years if you have been married to a U.S. citizen during that time).

✓ **5 Years of Job/School Information**

You'll need to list your job and/or school information (organization name, address, time period) for the past five years (or three years if you have been married to a U.S. citizen during that time).

✓ **Information about your Current and Former Spouses**

If applicable, you'll need to list information about your current spouse and any former spouses. Information includes: name, address, birth date, marriage date, immigration status, country of citizenship and A-number if applicable.

✓ **Information about your Children**

If applicable, you'll need to list information about your sons and daughters (even if they are deceased or not living with you). Information includes: name, address, birth date, country of birth and A-number if applicable.

Paying for Naturalization

Did you know that the typical 40-year old permanent resident can expect to pay another \$3,500 in green card renewal fees over a lifetime⁸? That's at current rates – the USCIS fee keeps getting higher.

But the one-time USCIS fees for naturalization are just \$725. And you'll never pay another USCIS fee again!

Your children will likely pay over \$9,000 each in green card renewal fees over their lifetimes. But if you naturalize, your children automatically become U.S. citizens at no additional cost in a process known as “derivation.” Children under 18 automatically acquire U.S. citizenship if the following three conditions have been fulfilled⁹:

- ✓ At least one of the child's parents is a U.S. citizen by birth or naturalization;
- ✓ The child is a permanent resident under 18 years of age;
- ✓ The child is residing in or has resided in the United States in the legal and physical custody of the U.S. citizen parent.

If you wait to naturalize until your child is over 18 years old, your child will have to file his/her own Form N-400 and pay separate fees.

Waivers for Military and Applicants over 75

There are exceptions in which the applicant is not required to pay the entire \$725 fee. Applicants 75 years of age or older are not

⁸ Citizenship Cost Calculator available at <https://citizenpath.com/citizenship-cost-calculator/>

⁹ INA §320, also known as the Child Citizenship Act of 2000

charged a biometric fee, the total fee is \$640. And no fee is required for military applicants¹⁰.

Fee waiver

USCIS will grant a fee waiver if you are unable to pay the N-400 filing fee and meet certain criteria. To be eligible for a fee waiver, one of the following must be met:

- ✔ You or qualified members of your household are currently receiving a means-tested benefit. A means-tested benefit is one for which the individuals' income/resources determine eligibility and/or the benefit amount.
- ✔ Your household income is at or below the 150% poverty level¹¹ at the time you file. Check the current poverty levels for this year at: Form I-912P, HHS Poverty Guidelines for Fee Waiver Requests.
- ✔ You are experiencing a financial hardship that prevents you from paying the filing fee, including unexpected medical bills or emergencies.

If you believe that you may qualify for a fee waiver, visit

www.uscis.gov/feewaiver to prepare the Form I-912.

Credit card

In addition to checks and money orders, USCIS is now accepting credit card and debit card payments (Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover) for the N-400 fees¹². To pay with a card, submit Form G-1450, Authorization for Credit Card Transactions, with the Form N-400 application.

¹⁰ U.S. military applicants pay no fee for N-400 when filing under Section 328 and 329 of the INA

¹¹ [HHS Poverty Guidelines for Fee Waiver Request](#)

¹² USCIS Form G-1450 available at <http://www.uscis.gov/g-1450>

Preparing for the Interview

USCIS will mail you a letter with the date, time and location of your naturalization interview.

Items to Take to the Naturalization Interview¹³

The USCIS letter will list the items that you must take to your naturalization interview. Generally, the mandatory items include:

- ✓ Appointment notice letter
- ✓ Permanent resident card (green card)
- ✓ Passports (even if they're expired)
- ✓ State-issued identification (such as a driver's license)

It can also be very helpful to take documentation that helps support your application. These items may include:

- ✓ Proof of marital status (if you have ever been married) such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or death certificate of former spouse
- ✓ Proof of name change (if you've ever changed your name) such as a marriage certificate or court decree
- ✓ Spouse's prior marriage history such as divorce decree or death certificate to prove that the marriage was terminated
- ✓ Court disposition in criminal cases
- ✓ Proof of Select Service registration for men

Questions in the Naturalization Interview

Much of your naturalization interview will cover the facts that you have already stated in your Form N-400, Application for

¹³ [USCIS Naturalization Interview and Test Video, USCIS](#)

Naturalization. The USCIS officer will likely review many of your answers to confirm your consistency. You can also expect questions related to:

- ✓ Your background
- ✓ Evidence supporting your case
- ✓ Your place and length of residence
- ✓ Your character
- ✓ Your attachment to the Constitution and
- ✓ Your willingness to take an Oath of Allegiance to the U.S.

Since you would have filed Form N-400 several months prior to the interview, it is very possible that information has changed. You may have made an additional trip abroad, have a new job, or even gotten married. If there are any differences between answers on application and your supporting documents, be prepared to explain the reason.

You must always be honest about your answers. Lying to a USCIS officer will likely make you ineligible for naturalization. If you feel the new information could be harmful to the naturalization process, speak with an immigration attorney before attending the naturalization interview.

Your ability to understand the questions and answers in English is part of the interview.

Keep a copy of the Form N-400 that you filed. Review this in detail before your interview. Make sure you understand each and every question.

Preparing for the Tests

During your naturalization interview, the USCIS officer will also test your ability to read, write, and speak English (unless you are exempt from the English requirements). You will also be given a civics test in English (to test your knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government) unless you are exempt. Even if exempt from the English test, you will need to take the civics test in the language of your choice or qualify for a waiver.

English Test

Your English skills will be tested in the following ways:

Reading	To test your ability to read in English, you must read one sentence, out of three sentences, in a manner suggesting to the USCIS officer that you understand the meaning of the sentence.
Writing	To test your ability to write in English, you must write one sentence, out of three sentences, in a manner that would be understandable as written to the USCIS officer.
Speaking	Your ability to speak English is determined by your answers to questions normally asked by USCIS officers during the naturalization eligibility interview on Form N-400.

You will only be expected to read, write, and understand simple vocabulary and use basic grammar. You may ask for words to be repeated or rephrased and may make some errors in pronunciation, spelling, and grammar and still meet the English requirement for naturalization.¹⁴

¹⁴ [USCIS Policy Manual Volume 12, Chapter 2](#)

See the appendix on page 25 for a list of words that may be used on the reading portion of the English test. Several free study tools are also available from USCIS to help you prepare for the English test at

<http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/study-test/study-materials-english-test>

History and Civics Test

The U.S. History and Civics Test has 10 questions. The questions will be asked orally, and you will be required to answer orally. It's only necessary to get 6 questions correct to pass. Once you have answered 6 correctly, the test is complete.

The great news is that you can study these questions before the test. USCIS makes a list of 100 questions available for you to study. Again, you will only be asked to answer 10 questions.

USCIS officers will give careful consideration for an applicant's age, background, level of education, length of residence in the U.S., opportunities available and efforts made to acquire the requisite knowledge, and other factors that may affect the applicant's knowledge and understanding of the questions.

At the end of the interview, the USCIS officer will inform you if you have passed the history and civics test.

See the appendix on page 27 for a list of questions that may be used on the civics test. Several free study tools are also available from USCIS to help you prepare for the English test at <http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/study-test/study-materials-civics-test>

Exemptions for the Test

An applicant may qualify for an exception from the English requirement, civics requirement, or both requirements. The table below serves as a quick reference guide on the exceptions to the English and civics requirements for naturalization.

Exceptions to English and Civics Requirements for Naturalization ¹⁵		
	English Read, write, speak and understand	Civics Knowledge of U.S. history and government
Age 50 or older and resided in U.S. as an LPR for at least 20 years at time of filing	Exempt	Still required. Applicants may take civics test in their language of choice using an interpreter.
Age 55 or older and resided in U.S. as an LPR for at least 15 years at time of filing	Exempt	
Age 65 or older and resided in U.S. as an LPR for at least 20 years at time of filing	Exempt	Still required but officers administer specially designated test forms. Applicants may take the civics test in their language of choice using an interpreter.
Medical Disability Exception (Form N-648)	May be exempt from English, civics, or both	

Note: LPR = lawful permanent resident

¹⁵ [INA 312\(b\)](#)

An applicant who cannot meet the English and civics requirements because of a medical disability may be exempt from the English requirement, the civics requirement, or both requirements.

If you believe that you may qualify for a medical disability exception, prepare Form N-648 at www.uscis.gov/n-648.

Get Help Preparing N-400

Every day, CitizenPath helps people like you prepare Form N-400, Application for Naturalization. Our website was designed by immigration attorneys to make it easy, fast and reliable. We even guarantee that USCIS will accept your N-400 application. When you prepare your N-400 on CitizenPath.com, you get:

- ✓ Easy, step-by-step instructions to help you
- ✓ Alerts if there's a problem with your answers
- ✓ A money-back guarantee that USCIS will accept your N-400

It's free to try. No credit card or sign up is required to get started. And as a thank you for downloading this guide, you get 25% off.

25% Off Form N-400 Preparation
At checkout, use coupon code: GUIDE25

Try it for free at www.CitizenPath.com/N-400

Appendix: English Test Words

This is a list of several words that you may be asked to read on the English portion of the citizenship test. To test your ability to read in English, you must read one sentence, out of three sentences, in a manner suggesting to the USCIS officer that you understand the meaning of the sentence.

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

Appendix: Civics Test Questions

These are 100 questions that may be asked on the civics (history and government) portion of the naturalization test. Remember, you will only be asked to answer up to 10 of these questions. You must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test.

The civics test is an oral test. If English is difficult for you, practice these questions and answers with an English-speaking friend or family member.

Note: If you are age 65 or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk (*).

American Government

A: Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
 - the Constitution
2. What does the Constitution do?
 - sets up the government
 - defines the government
 - protects basic rights of Americans
3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
 - We the People

4. What is an amendment?
 - a change (to the Constitution)
 - an addition (to the Constitution)
5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
 - the Bill of Rights
6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?*- speech
- religion
- assembly
- press
- petition the government
7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
 - twenty-seven (27)
8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
 - announced our independence (from Great Britain)
 - declared our independence (from Great Britain)
 - said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)
9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
 - life
 - liberty
 - pursuit of happiness
10. What is freedom of religion?
 - You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.
11. What is the economic system in the United States?*- capitalist economy
- market economy

12. What is the “rule of law”?

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

B: System of Government

13. Name one branch or part of the government.*

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

14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

- checks and balances
- separation of powers

15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?

- the President

16. Who makes federal laws?

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

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

- the Senate and House (of Representatives)

18. How many U.S. Senators are there?

- one hundred (100)

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

- six (6)

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

- 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.]

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

- four hundred thirty-five (435)

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

- two (2)

23. Name your U.S. Representative.

- 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.]

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

- all people of the state

25. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

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

26. We elect a President for how many years?

- four (4)

27. In what month do we vote for President?*

- November

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

- Donald Trump
- Don Trump

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

- Michael Pence
- Mike Pence

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

- the Vice President

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

- the Speaker of the House

32. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?

- the President

33. Who signs bills to become laws?

- the President

34. Who vetoes bills?

- the President

35. What does the President's Cabinet do?

- advises the President

36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?

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

37. What does the judicial branch do?

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

38. What is the highest court in the United States?

- the Supreme Court

39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

- nine (9)

40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

- John Roberts (John G. Roberts, Jr.)

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

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

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

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

43. Who is the Governor of your state now?

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

44. What is the capital of your state?*

- 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.]

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

- Democratic and Republican

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

- Republican (Party)

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

- (Paul) Ryan

C: Rights and Responsibilities

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

- Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).
- You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.
- Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)
- A male citizen of any race (can vote).

49. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?*

- serve on a jury
- vote in a federal election

50. Name one right only for United States citizens.

- vote in a federal election
- run for federal office

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

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

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

- the United States
- the flag

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

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

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

- eighteen (18) and older

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

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

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

- April 15

57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?

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

American History

A: Colonial Period and Independence

58. What is one reason colonists came to America?

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

59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

- American Indians
- Native Americans

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

- Africans
- people from Africa

61. Why did the colonists fight the British?

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

62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

- (Thomas) Jefferson

63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

- July 4, 1776

64. There were 13 original states. Name three.

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

65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

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

66. When was the Constitution written?

- 1787

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

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

68. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

- U.S. diplomat
- oldest member of the Constitutional Convention
- first Postmaster General of the United States

- writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac"
- started the first free libraries

69. Who is the "Father of Our Country"?

- (George) Washington

70. Who was the first President?*

- (George) Washington

B: 1800s

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

- the Louisiana Territory
- Louisiana

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

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

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

- the Civil War
- the War between the States

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

- slavery
- economic reasons
- states' rights

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

- freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)

- saved (or preserved) the Union
- led the United States during the Civil War

76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

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

77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

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

C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

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

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

79. Who was President during World War I?

- (Woodrow) Wilson

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

- (Franklin) Roosevelt

81. Who did the United States fight in World War II?

- Japan, Germany, and Italy

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

- World War II

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

- Communism

84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

- civil rights (movement)

85. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?*

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

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

- Terrorists attacked the United States.

87. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

[USCIS Officers will be supplied with a list of federally recognized American Indian tribes.]

- Cherokee
- Navajo
- Sioux
- Chippewa
- Choctaw
- Pueblo
- Apache
- Iroquois
- Creek
- Blackfeet

- Seminole
- Cheyenne
- Arawak
- Shawnee
- Mohegan
- Huron
- Oneida
- Lakota
- Crow
- Teton
- Hopi
- Inuit

Integrated Civics

A: Geography

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

- Missouri (River)
- Mississippi (River)

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

- Pacific (Ocean)

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

- Atlantic (Ocean)

91. Name one U.S. territory.

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

- Guam

92. Name one state that borders Canada.

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

93. Name one state that borders Mexico.

- California
- Arizona
- New Mexico
- Texas

94. What is the capital of the United States?*

- Washington, D.C.

95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?*

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

B: Symbols

96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

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

97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?*

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

98. What is the name of the national anthem?

- The Star-Spangled Banner

C: Holidays

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?*

- July 4

100. Name two national U.S. holidays.

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

On the naturalization test, some answers may change because of elections or appointments. As you study for the test, make sure that you know the most current answers to these questions. Answer these questions with the name of the official who is serving at the time of your eligibility interview with USCIS. The USCIS officer will not accept an incorrect answer.

Although USCIS is aware that there may be additional correct answers to these 100 civics questions, applicants are encouraged to respond to the civics questions using the answers provided above.