Components of the Naturalization Test

The following charts provide the content for the civics and English portions of the naturalization test. During your naturalization interview, a USCIS Officer will ask you questions about your application and background. You will also take an English and civics test unless you qualify for an exemption or waiver. The English test has three components: reading, writing, and speaking. The civics test covers important U.S. history and government topics. The following charts outline the content for the English and civics portions of the naturalization test.

Civics Test

An applicant will be asked up to 10 questions from the list below. Applicants must answer correctly six of the 10 questions to pass the civics test.

American Government

A: Principles of American Democracy
- What is the Supreme Court and what does it do?
- What is the role of the President in America?
- Who is the leader of the executive branch?
- What is the role of Congress?
- What is the role of the Supreme Court?

B: System of Government
- Name one branch of government.
- Who is in charge of the executive branch?
- Who makes federal laws?
- What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?
- Who is the majority in the House of Representatives?
- How many U.S. Senators are there?
- What is the Senate's role?

Integrated Civics

A: Geography
- Name one of the longest rivers in the United States.
- What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?
- What is the capital of the United States?
- What is the rule of law?

B: Symbols
- Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
- Why does the flag have 50 stars?
- What is the name of the national anthem?

C: Holidays
- When do we celebrate Independence Day?
- When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?

American History

A: Colonial Period and Independence
- What is one reason colonists came to America?
- Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
- What was the main concern of the United States?
- Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?
- During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?
- Who did the United States fight in World War II?

B: 1800s
- What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
- Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.
- Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information
- Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.
- Who was President during World War II?
- Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?
- Who did the United States fight in World War II?
- Who was President when Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?
- During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?

*If you are 65 or older and have been a permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study only the questions that have been marked with an asterisk.
Components of the Naturalization Test (continued)

English Test

**Oral Test**

An applicant’s ability to speak English will be determined by the USCIS Officer from the applicant’s answers to questions normally asked during the eligibility interview on Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.

**Reading Test**

Reading Vocabulary

Each reading test administered to an applicant contains no more than 3 sentences. Applicants must read 1 out of 3 sentences correctly to demonstrate an ability to read in English. To help applicants prepare, USCIS provides a reading vocabulary list containing all the words found in the English reading portion of the test. The content focuses on civics and history topics.

**QUESTION WORDS**

- How
- What
- When
- Where
- Who
- Why

**PEOPLE**

- Abraham Lincoln
- George Washington

**CIVICS**

- American flag
- Bill of Rights
- capital
- city
- Congress
- country
- Father of Our Country
- government
- President
- right
- Senators
- state/states
- White House

**VERBS**

- can
- come
- do/does
- elects
- have/has
- is/are/was/be
- lives/lived
- meet
- name
- pay
- vote
- want

**PLACES**

- America
- United States
- U.S.

**HOLIDAYS**

- Presidents’ Day
- Memorial Day
- Flag Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Thanksgiving

**OTHER (FUNCTION)**

- a
- for
- here
- in
- of
- on
- the
- to
- we

**OTHER (CONTENT)**

- colors
- dollar bill
- first
- largest
- many
- most
- north
- one
- people
- second
- south

**Writing Test**

Writing Vocabulary

Each writing test administered to an applicant contains no more than 3 sentences. Applicants must write 1 out of 3 sentences correctly in order to demonstrate an ability to write in English. To help applicants prepare, USCIS provides a writing vocabulary list containing all the words found in the English writing portion of the test. The content focuses on civics and history topics.

**PEOPLE**

- Adams
- Lincoln
- Washington

**CIVICS**

- American Indians
- capital
- citizens
- Civil War
- Congress
- Father of Our Country
- flag
- free
- freedom of speech
- President
- right
- Senators
- state/states
- White House

**VERBS**

- can
- come
- elect
- have/has
- is/was/be
- lives/lived
- meets
- pay
- vote
- want

**PLACES**

- Alaska
- California
- Canada
- Delaware
- Mexico
- New York City
- United States
- Washington
- Washington, D.C.

**OTHER (FUNCTION)**

- and
- during
- for
- here
- in
- of
- on
- the
- to
- we

**OTHER (CONTENT)**

- blue
- dollar bill
- fifty/50
- first
- largest
- most
- north
- one
- one hundred/100
- people
- red
- second
- south
- taxes
- white

**MONTHS**

- February
- May
- June
- July
- September
- October
- November