CIVICS FLASH CARDS

(2020 version)

These civics flash cards will help immigrants learn about important American government and history topics while preparing for the naturalization test. These flash cards can also be used in the classroom as an instructional tool for citizenship preparation.

IMPORTANT NOTE: On the 2020 version of the civics test, some answers may change because of elections or appointments. Applicants must be aware of the most current answers to these questions. Applicants must answer these questions with the name of the official who is serving at the time of their naturalization interview with USCIS. Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the most current answers to the civics questions that may have changed.

Important Updates to the Naturalization Test

USCIS has revised the civics portion of the naturalization test.

- All applicants for naturalization with a filing date on or after December 1, 2020, will be required to take the 2020 version of the civics test.

- Applicants for naturalization with a filing date before December 1, 2020, are required to take the 2008 version of the civics test.

The naturalization test has two components: an English and civics test. The English portion has not changed.

For more information about the 2020 version of the civics test, visit uscis.gov/citizenship/2020test.

Civics Flash Cards (2020 version)

The list of 128 questions and answers from the 2020 version of the civics test are included in these flash cards. The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS officer will ask you 20 questions from the list of 128 civics test questions. You must answer at least 12 questions (or 60%) correctly to pass the 2020 version of the civics test.

Although USCIS is aware that there may be additional correct answers to the 128 civics questions, applicants are encouraged to respond to the civics questions using the answers provided on these flash cards.

65/20 Special Consideration

If you are 65 years old or older and have been living in the United States as a lawful permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the 20 questions that have been marked with an asterisk (★) at the end of each question. You may also take the civics test in the language of your choice. The USCIS officer will ask you to answer 10 out of the 20 civics test questions with an asterisk. You must answer at least 6 out of 10 questions (or 60%) correctly to pass the 2020 version of the civics test.
Instructions for Cutting and Folding Cards

• Print the cards on 8 1/2” x 11” paper.
• Cut and fold to make flash cards.
• Fasten the two sides together with tape, glue or staples.

Use as a study tool. Read the question and when you are ready to answer, turn the card over and see if your answer is correct.

- Question 2 •
What is the supreme law of the land? *
- Answer 2 •
(U.S.) Constitution

- Question 11 •
The words “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness” are in what founding document?
- Answer 11 •
Declaration of Independence

Cut the cards on the dashed line.

Fold the cards on the dotted line.
What is the form of government of the United States?

- Republic
- Constitution-based federal republic
- Representative democracy

What is the supreme law of the land?

(U.S.) Constitution
**Question 3**

Name one thing the U.S. Constitution does.

**Answer 3**

- Forms the government
- Defines powers of government
- Defines the parts of government
- Protects the rights of the people

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**Question 4**

The U.S. Constitution starts with the words “We the People.” What does “We the People” mean?

**Answer 4**

- Self-government
- Popular sovereignty
- Consent of the governed
- People should govern themselves
- (Example of) social contract
Question 5
How are changes made to the U.S. Constitution?

Answer 5
• Amendments
• The amendment process

Question 6
What does the Bill of Rights protect?

Answer 6
• (The basic) rights of Americans
• (The basic) rights of people living in the United States
**Question 7**

How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have? *

**Answer 7**

Twenty-seven (27)

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**Question 8**

Why is the Declaration of Independence important?

**Answer 8**

- It says America is free from British control.
- It says all people are created equal.
- It identifies inherent rights.
- It identifies individual freedoms.
**Question 9**

What founding document said the American colonies were free from Britain?

**Answer 9**

Declaration of Independence

**Question 10**

Name **two** important ideas from the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

**Answer 10**

- Equality
- Liberty
- Social contract
- Natural rights
- Limited government
- Self-government
Question 11

The words “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness” are in what founding document?

Answer 11

Declaration of Independence

Question 12

What is the economic system of the United States?

Answer 12

- Capitalism
- Free market economy
★ Question 13 ★

What is the rule of law?

★ Answer 13 ★

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

★ Question 14 ★

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

★ Answer 14 ★

• 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
There are three branches of government. Why?

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

Name the three branches of government.

- Legislative, executive, and judicial
- Congress, president, and the courts
**Question 17**

The President of the United States is in charge of which branch of government?

**Answer 17**

Executive branch

**Question 18**

What part of the federal government writes laws?

**Answer 18**

- (U.S.) Congress
- (U.S. or national) legislature
- Legislative branch
Question 19

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

Answer 19

Senate and House (of Representatives)

Question 20

Name one power of the U.S. Congress.

Answer 20

- Writes laws
- Declares war
- Makes the federal budget
How many U.S. senators are there?

One hundred (100)

How long is a term for a U.S. senator?

Six (6) years
Question 23

Who is one of your state’s U.S. senators now?

Answer 23

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.]

Question 24

How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?

Answer 24

Four hundred thirty-five (435)
Question 25
How long is a term for a member of the House of Representatives?

Answer 25
Two (2) years

Question 26
Why do U.S. representatives serve shorter terms than U.S. senators?

Answer 26
To more closely follow public opinion
**Question 27**

How many senators does each state have?

**Answer 27**

Two (2)

**Question 28**

Why does each state have two senators?

**Answer 28**

- Equal representation (for small states)
- The Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise)
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.]

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

What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now? *
Question 31: Who does a U.S. senator represent?
Answer 31: Citizens of their state

Question 32: Who elects U.S. senators?
Answer 32: Citizens from their state
Question 33
Who does a member of the House of Representatives represent?

Answer 33
- Citizens in their (congressional) district
- Citizens in their district

Question 34
Who elects members of the House of Representatives?

Answer 34
Citizens from their (congressional) district
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

The President of the United States is elected for how many years?

Four (4) years
**Question 37**

The President of the United States can serve only two terms. Why?

**Answer 37**

- (Because of) the 22nd Amendment
- To keep the president from becoming too powerful

**Question 38**

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

**Answer 38**

Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the President of the United States.
Question 39

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

Answer 39

Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Vice President of the United States.

Question 40

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

Answer 40

The Vice President (of the United States)
Question 41

Name **one** power of the president.

Answer 41

- Signs bills into law
- Vetoes bills
- Enforces laws
- Commander in Chief (of the military)
- Chief diplomat

Question 42

Who is Commander in Chief of the U.S. military?

Answer 42

The President (of the United States)
Question 43
Who signs bills to become laws?

Answer 43
The President (of the United States)

Question 44
Who vetoes bills?

Answer 44
The President (of the United States)
Question 45

Who appoints federal judges?

Answer 45

The President (of the United States)

Question 46

The executive branch has many parts.
Name one.

Answer 46

- President (of the United States)
- Cabinet
- Federal departments and agencies
What does the President’s Cabinet do?

Advises the President (of the United States)

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
- Vice President (of the United States)
**Question 49**

Why is the Electoral College important?

**Answer 49**

- It decides who is elected president.
- It provides a compromise between the popular election of the president and congressional selection.

**Question 50**

What is one part of the judicial branch?

**Answer 50**

- Supreme Court
- Federal Courts
What does the judicial branch do?

- Reviews laws
- Explains laws
- Resolves disputes (disagreements) about the law
- Decides if a law goes against the (U.S.) Constitution

What is the highest court in the United States?

Supreme Court
Question 53
How many seats are on the Supreme Court?

Answer 53
Nine (9)

Question 54
How many Supreme Court justices are usually needed to decide a case?

Answer 54
Five (5)
**Question 55**
How long do Supreme Court justices serve?

**Answer 55**
• (For) life
• Lifetime appointment
• (Until) retirement

**Question 56**
Supreme Court justices serve for life. Why?

**Answer 56**
• To be independent (of politics)
• To limit outside (political) influence
**Question 57**

Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

**Answer 57**

Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Chief Justice of the United States.

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**Question 58**

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

**Answer 58**

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

What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment?

(It states that the) powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or to the people.
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.]

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.]
Question 63

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

Answer 63

- 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).

Question 64

Who can vote in federal elections, run for federal office, and serve on a jury in the United States?

Answer 64

- Citizens
- Citizens of the United States
- U.S. citizens
Question 65

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

Answer 65

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

Question 66

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

Answer 66

- The United States
- The flag
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 (help, do important work for) the nation (if needed)
Be loyal to the United States

How can people become United States citizens?

Naturalize
Derive citizenship
Be born in the United States
Question 69

What are two examples of civic participation in the United States?

Answer 69

• 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

Question 70

What is one way Americans can serve their country?

Answer 70

• Vote
• Pay taxes
• Obey the law
• Serve in the military
• Run for office
• Work for local, state, or federal government
**Question 71**

Why is it important to pay federal taxes?

**Answer 71**

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

**Question 72**

It is important for all men age 18 through 25 to register for the Selective Service. Name one reason why.

**Answer 72**

- Required by law
- Civic duty
- Makes the draft fair, if needed
Question 73
The colonists came to America for many reasons. Name one.

Answer 73
- Freedom
- Political liberty
- Religious freedom
- Economic opportunity
- Escape persecution

Question 74
Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived? *

Answer 74
- American Indians
- Native Americans
Question 75

What group of people was taken and sold as slaves?

Answer 75

- Africans
- People from Africa

Question 76

What war did the Americans fight to win independence from Britain?

Answer 76

- American Revolution
- The (American) Revolutionary War
- War for (American) Independence
Question 77

Name **one** reason why the Americans declared independence from Britain.

Answer 77

- High taxes
- Taxation without representation
- British soldiers stayed in Americans’ houses (boarding, quartering)
- They did not have self-government
- Boston Massacre
- Boston Tea Party (Tea Act)
- Stamp Act
- Sugar Act
- Townshend Acts
- Intolerable (Coercive) Acts

Question 78

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? *

Answer 78

(Thomas) Jefferson
**Question 79**
When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

**Answer 79**
July 4, 1776

**Question 80**
The American Revolution had many important events. Name one.

**Answer 80**
- (Battle of) Bunker Hill
- Declaration of Independence
- Washington Crossing the Delaware (Battle of Trenton)
- (Battle of) Saratoga
- Valley Forge (Encampment)
- (Battle of) Yorktown (British surrender at Yorktown)
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

What founding document was written in 1787?

(U.S.) Constitution
**Question 83**
The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.

**Answer 83**
- (James) Madison
- (Alexander) Hamilton
- (John) Jay
- Publius

**Question 84**
Why were the Federalist Papers important?

**Answer 84**
- They helped people understand the (U.S.) Constitution.
- They supported passing the (U.S.) Constitution.
Question 85

Benjamin Franklin is famous for many things. Name one.

Answer 85

• Founded the first free public libraries
• First Postmaster General of the United States
• Helped write the Declaration of Independence
• Inventor
• U.S. diplomat

Question 86

George Washington is famous for many things. Name one.*

Answer 86

• “Father of Our Country”
• First president of the United States
• General of the Continental Army
• President of the Constitutional Convention
**Question 87**

Thomas Jefferson is famous for many things. Name one.

**Answer 87**

- 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

**Question 88**

James Madison is famous for many things. Name one.

**Answer 88**

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

**Question 90**

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

- Louisiana Territory
- Louisiana
**Question 91**

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

**Answer 91**

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

**Question 92**

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

**Answer 92**

The Civil War
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/Sharpsburg
- Lincoln was assassinated.

Abraham Lincoln is famous for many things. Name one.

- Freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)
- Saved (or preserved) the Union
- Led the United States during the Civil War
- 16th president of the United States
- Delivered the Gettysburg Address
Question 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

Question 96

What U.S. war ended slavery?

The Civil War
**Question 97**

What amendment gives citizenship to all persons born in the United States?

**Answer 97**

14th Amendment

**Question 98**

When did all men get the right to vote?

**Answer 98**

- After the Civil War
- During Reconstruction
- (With the) 15th Amendment
- 1870
Question 99

Name one leader of the women’s rights movement in the 1800s.

Answer 99

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

Question 100

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

Answer 100

- World War I
- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- (Persian) Gulf War
**Question 101**
Why did the United States enter World War I?

**Answer 101**
- Because Germany attacked U.S. (civilian) ships
- To support the Allied Powers (England, France, Italy, and Russia)
- To oppose the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria)

**Question 102**
When did all women get the right to vote?

**Answer 102**
- 1920
- After World War I
- (With the) 19th Amendment
What was the Great Depression?

Longest economic recession in modern history

When did the Great Depression start?

- The Great Crash (1929)
- Stock market crash of 1929
Who was president during the Great Depression and World War II?

(Franklin) Roosevelt

Why did the United States enter World War II?

• (Bombing of) Pearl Harbor
• Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor
• To support the Allied Powers (England, France, and Russia)
• To oppose the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan)
Question 107

Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one.

Answer 107

- General during World War II
- President at the end of (during) the Korean War
- 34th president of the United States
- Signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 (Created the Interstate System)

Question 108

Who was the United States’ main rival during the Cold War?

Answer 108

- Soviet Union
- USSR
- Russia
During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States?

- Communism
- Nuclear war

Why did the United States enter the Korean War?

To stop the spread of communism
Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War?

To stop the spread of communism

What did the civil rights movement do?

Fought to end racial discrimination
Why did the United States enter the Persian Gulf War?

To force the Iraqi military from Kuwait
**Question 115**

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

**Answer 115**

- 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

**Question 116**

Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

**Answer 116**

- (Global) War on Terror
- War in Afghanistan
- War in Iraq
Question 117

Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

Answer 117

- 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

For a complete list of tribes, please visit bia.gov.

Question 118

Name one example of an American innovation.

Answer 118

- Light bulb
- Automobile (cars, internal combustion engine)
- Skyscrapers
- Airplane
- Assembly line
- Landing on the moon
- Integrated circuit (IC)
**Question 119**

What is the capital of the United States?

**Answer 119**

Washington, D.C.

**Question 120**

Where is the Statue of Liberty?

**Answer 120**

- New York (Harbor)
- Liberty Island [Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]
**Question 121**

Why does the flag have 13 stripes?*

**Answer 121**

- (Because there were) 13 original colonies
- (Because the stripes) represent the original colonies

**Question 122**

Why does the flag have 50 stars?

**Answer 122**

- (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?

The Star-Spangled Banner

The Nation’s first motto was “E Pluribus Unum.”

• Out of many, one
• We all become one
What is Independence Day?

- A holiday to celebrate U.S. independence (from Britain)
- The country’s birthday

Name three national U.S. holidays.*

- New Year’s Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Presidents Day (Washington’s Birthday)
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day
What is Memorial Day?

A holiday to honor soldiers who died in military service

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)