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 his or her naturalization interview with USCIS.

Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the most current answers to the civics questions that may have changed.

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 (★) found 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.
Question 1

What is the form of government of the United States?

Answer 1

- Republic
- Constitution-based federal republic
- Representative democracy

Question 2

What is the supreme law of the land?

Answer 2

(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

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
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.

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

Twenty-seven (27)
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
Question 15
There are three branches of government.
Why?

Answer 15
• So one part does not become too powerful
• Checks and balances
• Separation of powers

Question 16
Name the three branches of government.

Answer 16
• 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
Question 21
How many U.S. senators are there?

Answer 21
One hundred (100)

Question 22
How long is a term for a U.S. senator?

Answer 22
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

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**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.]

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

Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
**Question 31**

Who does a U.S. senator represent?

**Answer 31**

- Citizens of their state
- People 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
- People from their (congressional) district
- People in their district

**Question 34**

Who elects members of the House of Representatives?

**Answer 34**

Citizens from their (congressional) district
Question 35

Some states have more representatives than other states. Why?

Answer 35

• (Because of) the state’s population
• (Because) they have more people
• (Because) some states have more people

Question 36

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

Answer 36

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)
Who signs bills to become laws?

The President (of the United States)

Who vetoes bills?

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
**Question 47**

What does the President’s Cabinet do?

**Answer 47**

Advises the President (of the United States)

**Question 48**

What are two Cabinet-level positions?

**Answer 48**

- 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)
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.

What is one part of the judicial branch?

- 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)

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**Question 54**

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

**Answer 54**

Five (5)
How long do Supreme Court justices serve?

Supreme Court justices serve for life.

Why?

• 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
**Question 59**

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

**Answer 59**

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

**Question 60**

What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment?

**Answer 60**

(It states that the) powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or to the people.
**Question 61**

Who is the governor of your state now?

**Answer 61**

Answers will vary.

[District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. does not have a governor.]

**Question 62**

What is the capital of your state?

**Answer 62**

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.]
There are four amendments to the U.S. Constitution about who can vote. 

Describe one of them.

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

- 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 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)
Question 81

There were 13 original states. Name five.

Answer 81

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

Question 82

What founding document was written in 1787?

Answer 82

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

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

Why were the Federalist Papers important?

- 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

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**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.

Answer 89

- 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?

Answer 90

- 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?

Answer 95

• 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?

Answer 96

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.

- 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.

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

• 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)

When did all women get the right to vote?

• 1920
• After World War I
• (With the) 19th Amendment
What was the Great Depression?

Longest economic recession in modern history

- The Great Crash (1929)
- Stock market crash of 1929
**Question 105**

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

**Answer 105**

(Franklin) Roosevelt

**Question 106**

Why did the United States enter World War II?

**Answer 106**

- (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)
Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one.

- 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)

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

- 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

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”
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

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

- (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)
What is the capital of the United States?

Washington, D.C.

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).]
**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
Question 123
What is the name of the national anthem?

Answer 123
The Star-Spangled Banner

Question 124
The Nation’s first motto was “E Pluribus Unum.” What does that mean?

Answer 124
• 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)