

100 Civics Questions for the U.S. Citizenship Test
(in the order the questions appear in the *Future U.S. Citizens* textbook)

Unit 1 – 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

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

- **Cheyenne**
- Apache • Crow • Navajo
- Arawak • Hopi • Oneida
- Blackfeet • Huron Pueblo
- Cherokee • Inuit • Seminole
- Chippewa • Iroquois • Shawnee
- Choctaw • Lakota • Sioux
- Creek • Mohegan • Teton

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

64. There were 13 original states. Name three.

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

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

62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

- **(Thomas) Jefferson**

63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

- **July 4, 1776**

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**

Unit 2 – The 1800's

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

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

- **Africans**
- people from Africa

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

Unit 3 – Recent American History

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**

11. What is the economic system of the United States?

- **capitalist economy**
- market economy

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

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**

Unit 4 – 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)

7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
- **twenty-seven (27)**
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.
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
10. What is freedom of religion?
- **You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion**

Unit 5 – System of Government – Part 1

13. Name one branch or part of the government.
- **Congress**
 - legislature
 - President
 - executive
 - the courts
 - judicial
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 the House (of Representatives)**
14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?
- **checks and balances**
 - separation of powers

Unit 6 – System of Government – Part 2

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?
- **(Barack) Obama**
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**
29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?
- **(Joe) Biden**
 - Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
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**
47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?
- **(John) Boehner**
35. What does the President's Cabinet do?
- **advises the President**
36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?
- **Secretary of State**
 - **Secretary of Defense**
 - Secretary of Agriculture
 - Secretary of Commerce
 - 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 Transportation
 - Secretary of the Treasury
 - Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 - Attorney General
 - Vice President

Unit 7 – System of Government – Part 3

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 Colorado's U.S. Senators now?
- **(Michael) Bennet**
 - (Mark) Udall
24. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
- **all people of the state**
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.
- **(Cory) Gardner**
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
37. What does the judicial branch do?
- **reviews the laws**
 - explains the 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 Chief Justice of the United States now?
- **John Roberts**
 - John G. Roberts, Jr.

Unit 8 – System of Government – Part 4

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
94. What is the capital of the United States?
- **Washington, D.C.**
43. Who is the Governor of Colorado now?
- **(John) Hickenlooper**
44. What is the capital of Colorado?
- **Denver**
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?
- **Democratic (Party)**

Unit 9 – 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).
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 speech**
 - **freedom of worship**
 - freedom of expression
 - freedom of assembly
 - freedom to petition the government
 - the right to bear arms

54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?
- **eighteen (18) and older**
49. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?
- **serve on a jury**
 - vote in a federal election
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
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
 - 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)

Unit 10 – Geography

88. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.
- **Mississippi (River)**
 - Missouri (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.
- **Alaska**
 - Idaho
 - Maine
 - Michigan
 - Minnesota
 - Montana
 - New Hampshire
 - New York
 - North Dakota
 - Ohio
 - Pennsylvania
 - Vermont
 - Washington
93. Name one state that borders Mexico.
- **Arizona**
 - California
 - New Mexico
 - Texas

Unit 11 – Symbols

95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?
- **New York (Harbor)**
 - Liberty Island
 - New Jersey
 - Near New York City on the Hudson (River)
52. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
- **the United States**
 - the flag
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**

Unit 12 – Holidays

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?
- **July 4**
100. Name two national U.S. holidays.
- **Independence Day**
 - **Presidents' Day**
 - New Year's Day
 - Columbus Day
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 - Veterans Day
 - Memorial Day
 - Thanksgiving
 - Labor Day
 - Christmas