

GUIDE TO TEACHING CITIZENSHIP

The US Citizenship Exam is comprised of a speaking test, reading test, writing test and civics test.

There are 100 possible civics questions on the naturalization test and each student will have answer 6 out of 10 correctly in order to pass. Your responsibility is to review by drill and explanation all of these questions throughout the semester.

In the writing test students have to write 1 out of 3 sentences correctly. These sentences pertain to American history so it is important that the students are both familiar with the vocabulary and are comfortable writing full sentences.

For the reading test students have to read 1 out of 3 sentence aloud correctly. Again, these sentences will have historical context. Pronunciation of historical vocabulary is important for this section.

The speaking test is not clear-cut, rather is assessed by a USCIS officer during the eligibility interview. We must help the students feel prepared for this portion by practicing conversations in English.

Please use this website as your lesson guide. These plans will ensure that you have covered all the possible questions and sections on the citizenship test:

<http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/teachers/lesson-plans-and-activities>

How to use the citizenship website:

- Our goal is to teach 3 website lessons per week, this way there is plenty of time at the end of the semester for students to review whatever sections they have trouble with.
- However, it is more important that the students fully understand the material they learn. It is okay to move at a slower pace if necessary.
- It is important to keep all citizenship teachers up to date with status of lesson plan.
- Each lesson plan covers specific civic questions and also gives examples of related reading and writing questions. Make sure to review ALL questions. Each type of question deserves equal attention.
- Although the website lesson plans are all-encompassing, you should bring in your own methods of teaching (ex: current events, interview simulations, etc.) Remember we've picked you for a reason... You're a good teacher and should fully utilize your creativity and teaching skills just like you would for any other level!!
- You must review lesson plans ahead of time (ex: during level meetings), download them to your computer, and bring them to class. ***it is important to download them prior to arriving to the center in case the internet connection isn't working
 - Download file (more information for teacher methods, doesn't need to be shared with the students)
 - Download handouts (for students to do, write on white board)

- Download answer key

-You may print pages if you think they will facilitate your teaching, you should also write information on the board for the students.

-Start each class by reviewing the previous day's major concepts and civics questions, and then begin your lesson. If you do not get through your entire lesson, write a note for the following day's teacher and tell them where to resume

Other important links for your reference:

Reading test vocabulary list-

http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/reading_vocab.pdf

Writing test vocabulary list-

http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/writing_vocab.pdf

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1

Monday: George Washington

Tuesday: Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence

Wednesday: Benjamin Franklin and the US Constitution

Thursday: Bill of Rights and Other Amendments

Week 2

Monday: Abraham Lincoln

Tuesday: Civil War

Wednesday: US Wars in the 1800s

Thursday: US History since 1900

Week 3

Monday: Fighting for our Rights

Tuesday: Your Government and You

Wednesday: Executive Branch

Thursday: Executive Branch (intermediate)

Week 4

Monday: NO CLASS

Tuesday: Legislative Branch

Wednesday: Legislative Branch (intermediate)

Thursday: Judicial Branch

Week 5

Monday: Judicial Branch (intermediate)

Tuesday: American Symbols and Celebrations

Wednesday: American Symbols and Celebrations (intermediate)
Thursday: US Geography

Week 6

Monday: US Geography (intermediate)
Tuesday: Thanksgiving 1- Pilgrims and American Indians
Wednesday: Thanksgiving 2- The Pilgrim Story and My Immigrant Story
Thursday: Thanksgiving 3- Traditions

Week 7

Monday: Early America (intermediate)

Remaining classes will be saved for lessons that are not finished if we have to move at a slower pace, or for students to choose topics that they are confused about.