

Welcome Teach-In-Cores teachers! You are about to embark on what I've found to be one of the most meaningful and profound experiences in our program: teaching immigrants the relevant civics and history information for them to pass the naturalization test and become United States citizens! Over the years, many students have taken and passed the exam during the course of the 10-week semester. Be prepared to shake their hands as new citizens!

Unlike the English language lessons, the citizenship material does not lend itself to easy syllabus partitions by week or day. They must know all the material, and it makes no sense progressing to the next history/civics subsection before having fully comprehended the previous material. Students generally arrive with remarkably different levels, both in their English proficiency and their knowledge of general American history. Hence, you may need to divide them between the two teachers for maximum efficiency.

The test consists of 10 questions, drawn from a 100-question bank equally divided between American history and American civics, with a generous sprinkling of American geography and current political knowledge (who's President? VP? Governor? etc). The syllabus below is meant to be a topical outline, not a list of exam questions, so please teach accordingly. For a comprehensive list of the 100 questions, see the red US Citizenship and Immigration Services red booklets or red flashcards lying around. Also, **please do not teach the questions exclusively using the exam wording**. It does not ensure full comprehension, and can confuse students come exam time should the wording differ. Mix it up! Example: What is the name of the President of the United States right now? Who is our current President? What is the job of Barack Obama right now? Who became president on January 20th, 2009?

History

1 1492-1783

a Columbus' arrival/colonists

- i When? Where did he arrive? Who were living there prior to his arrival? Name one tribe. Why did colonists come? Where did they come from? Why did they fight the British?

b Slavery

- i Who performed much of the plantation work? Where did they live? Where did they come from? How did they arrive?

c Independence:

- i Declaration of Independence: Who wrote it? Why? When? Who signed (13 colonies, name 3).
- ii Constitution: What was the Constitutional Convention? When was Constitution written? What were the Federalist Papers? Who wrote them?
- iii Other: Who was Benjamin Franklin/what was he famous for? Who was George Washington/what was he famous for? Who is "Father of Our Country"? Who are the Founding Fathers?

2 1784-1900

- 1 **Louisiana Purchase:** What was it? When was it? Who did we buy the land from?
- 2 **Wars:** What were the wars of the 19th century? (Four major wars: War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War, Spanish-American War). What happened in each war?
- 3 **Civil War:** Who was it between? Where? When? What problems led to Civil War? How was slavery involved?
 - a Abraham Lincoln: Who was he? What is one important thing he did?
 - b Emancipation Proclamation: What did it do?
 - c Who was Susan B. Anthony?

3 1900-present

- 1 **Wars:** What major wars did the US fight in the 20th century (Five: WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War)? Who did the US fight against in each war?
- 2 **First half** of century: Who was President during WWI? During WWII? Which war was Eisenhower in?
- 3 **Second half:** What was Cold War? Who was it fought against? What is racial discrimination? What movement fought to end it? Who is MLK? What happened on September 11, 2001?

Civics

1 **Constitution**

- a What is the Supreme Law of the Land?
- b What did it do?
- c First three words?
- d What's an amendment? Name of first ten amendments? How many in total? What is one right/freedom of First Amendment?
- e What is freedom of religion?

2 **Declaration of Independence**

- a What did it do? What rights does it contain?

3 **Government**

- a General: How many branches? What keeps them in balance?
- b Executive: Who is in charge? Elected how often? When voted for? Current President? Current VP? Who becomes President if current President can't? And if Prez and VP can't? Who is Commander in Chief of military? Who signs bills? Vetoes bills? At what age do citizens vote for President? What is President's Cabinet? Name two Cabinet-level positions (of 16 total)
- c Legislative: Who makes federal laws? What are two parts? How many Senators? Representatives? How long are their terms? Who do senators and representatives represent? How many senators/ reps per state? In total?
- d Judicial: What do they do? What is highest court in US? How many justices? Who is Chief Justice?
- e Federal: One power of federal gov't.
- f State: One power of state gov't.

Other Pertinent Information

- 1 **General:** What is economic system of US? What is "rule of law"? What is last day for federal income tax forms? When must men register for Selective Service? Why does the flag have 13 stripes? Why does it have 50 stars? What is the national anthem? Name two national US holidays.
- 2 **Rights/Responsibilities:** Name one of four amendments regarding who can vote? Name one right only for US citizens. Name two rights for anyone living in US. What does Pledge of Allegiance show loyalty to? One promise made as US citizen? How can Americans participate in their democracy?
- 3 **Massachusetts**
 - a Who is the MA Governor? Who are the MA senators? Who are the MA representatives (only need one)? What is the MA Capital?
- 4 **Political:** What are the two major political parties? The political party of President? Who is speaker of the House?
- 5 **Geography:** Name one of the two longest rivers in the US. What ocean lies on the West Coast? What ocean on the East Coast? Name a US territory. Name a state bordering Canada. Name a state bordering Mexico. What is the US Capital? Where is the Statue of Liberty?