

# Study Guide: Civic Test 2020 Edition

## I. American Government

### A. Principles of American Democracy

1. A **federal republic** is the *form of government* of the U.S.
2. The *supreme law of the land* is the **Constitution**
3. The *Constitution* **protects the rights of the people**
4. “*We the People*” means **self-government**
5. **Amendments** *changes* the *Constitution*
6. The *Bill of Rights* **protects** Americans
7. The *Constitution* has **twenty-seven (27) amendments**
8. The *Declaration of Independence* is important because it says **America is free** from British control, **people are created equal**, it identifies **inherent rights**, and **individual freedom**
9. The *Declaration of Independence* is the **founding document** that says **American colonies are free from Britain**
10. **Liberty** and **natural rights** are *two (2)* important ideas from the *Declaration of Independence* and the *Constitution*
11. “**Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness**” are in the *Declaration of Independence*
12. The *economic systems* of the U.S. are **capitalism** and **free market** economy
13. The *Rule of Law* means that leaders and government must **obey** it, everyone must **follow** it, and **no one is above of it**
14. The **Articles of Confederation** *influence* the *Constitution*
15. There are *three (3) branches of government* to make sure **no parts become too powerful, separation of powers**, and for **checks and balances**.

## B. System of Government

16. The *three (3) branches of the government* are **legislative, executive** and **judicial**
17. The **President** is in charge of *the executive branch*
18. The **Congress (legislative branch)** *writes laws*
19. The **Senate** and **House of Representatives** makes up the *Congress*
20. The *powers of the Congress* are to **write laws, declare war, and federal budget**
21. There are **one hundred (100) senators**
22. **Six (6) years** is the term of a *senator*
23. **Tammy Duckworth** is one of the current *Illinois senators*
24. There are **four hundred thirty-five (435) voting members** in the *House of Representatives*
25. **Two (2) years** is the term for the *House of Representatives' members*
26. U.S. *Representatives serve shorter terms* than *senators* to **follow public opinion more closely**
27. *Each state* has **two (2) senators**
28. There are *two (2) senators* for **equal representation and for The Great Compromise**
29. **Danny K. Davis** is my *U.S. Representative*
30. **Nancy Pelosi** is the *speaker* of the *House of Representatives*
31. **Senators** *represents the citizens of the states*
32. **Citizens elect senators**
33. *A member of the House of Representatives* **represents the citizens in their district**
34. *Citizens from their districts* **elects members** of the *House of Representatives*
35. Some states have *more representatives* because of the **population**
36. Every **four (4) years** the *President is elected*
37. The President can serve *only two (2) terms*, because of the **22<sup>nd</sup> amendment**, to **keep from becoming too powerful**
38. **Joseph Biden** is the *President*

39. **Kamala Harris** is the *Vice President*
40. The **Vice President** becomes the *President if can't longer serve*
41. The *President* **enforces laws**
42. The *President* is the **Commander in Chief** of the military
43. The *President* **signs bills** to become laws
44. The *President* **veto**es **bills**
45. The *President* **appoints federal judges**
46. The *President* is part of the **executive branch**
47. The **President's Cabinet** **advises** the *President*
48. The **Secretary of the Treasury** and **State** are *two (2) cabinet level position*
49. The *Electoral College* **decides who is elected president**, and **compromises** between **popular election** and **congressional selection**
50. The *Supreme Court* is part of the **judicial branch**
51. The *judicial branch* **reviews, explains laws, resolves disputes** and decides if a **law goes against the constitution**
52. The *Supreme Court* is the **highest court** in the U.S.
53. There are **nine (9) seats** on the *Supreme Court*
54. **Five (5) Supreme Court Justices** are usually needed to **decide a case**
55. *Supreme Court Justices* serve a **lifetime** or **until retirement**
56. They *serve for life* to be **political independent** and **limit political influence**
57. **John Roberts** is the *Chief of Justice*
58. The *Federal Government* can **declare war**
59. Giving a **driver's license** is a **power** that is *only for the State*
60. The **10<sup>th</sup> amendment** states that the *power not given to the federal government belong to the States or the people*

61. **J.B. Pritzker** is the *governor of Illinois*

62. **Springfield** is the *capital of Illinois*

### C. Rights and Responsibilities

63. **Any citizen can vote** *describes one (1) out of four (4) amendments in the Constitution*

64. *Citizens* can **vote in federal elections, run for federal office, and serve on a jury** in the U.S.

65. **Freedom of speech, expression and religion** are *three (3) rights of people* living in the U.S.

66. When we say the *Pledge of Allegiance*, we show **loyalty** to the **United States** and the **flag**

67. **Obey the laws** and **defend the Constitution** are *two (2) promises new citizens* make in the *Oath of Allegiance*

68. People can **naturalize, derive** citizenship or be **born** in the U.S. to *become citizens*

69. Two (2) examples of *civic participation* are to **vote** and **run for office**

70. By **paying taxes**, Americans can **serve their country**

71. It is *important to pay federal taxes* because it is **required by law**, by the **16<sup>th</sup> amendment**, it is a **civic duty**, and all **people** pay to **fund the federal government**

72. It is **required by law** and a **civic duty** to *register for selective service*, for men *18 to 25 years old*

## II. American History

### A. Colonial Period and Independence

73. The *colonists* came to America for **freedom**

74. **Natives** lived in America *before* the European arrived

75. **Africans** were sold as *slaves*

76. The **Revolutionary War** gave U.S. *independence*

77. **"Taxation without representation"** was *one reason America declared independence*

78. **Thomas Jefferson wrote** the *Declaration of Independence*

79. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776

80. The **Declaration of Independence** was an important *event from the America Revolution*
81. Five (5) out of thirteen (13) original states are: **New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Georgia**
82. The *U.S. Constitution* was written in **1787**
83. **Alexander Hamilton** was one of the *writers of the Federalist Papers*
84. *The Federalist Papers* are important because they **helped people understand** the Constitution, and **supported the passing** of it
85. *Benjamin Franklin* is famous for his **inventions**, one of them is the **lighting rod**
86. *George Washington* is famous for being the **first president** of the **U.S.**
87. *Thomas Jefferson* is famous for **writing the Declaration of Independence**
88. *James Madison* is famous for being **"Father of the Constitution"**
89. *Alexander Hamilton* is famous for being one of the **writers** of the **Federalist Papers**

#### B. 1800s

90. United States bought **Louisiana** *from France* in **1803**
91. The **Civil War** was a war fought by the U.S. from **1861 to 1865**
92. The war between the **North** and the **South** was *the Civil War*
93. **Emancipation Proclamation** was an *important event* from the Civil War
94. *Abraham Lincoln* was famous for **freeing the slaves**
95. The **Emancipation Proclamation** **freed the slaves**
96. The *Civil War* **ended slavery**
97. The **14<sup>th</sup> Amendment** *gives citizenship* to people born in the U.S.
98. *After the Civil War*, **all men** got the right to vote
99. **Lucy Stone** was one (1) *leader of the women's rights movements* in the 1800s

#### C. Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

100. **Vietnam War** was fought by the U.S. from **1955-1975**
101. The U.S. *entered World War I*, to **support the Allied Powers** (England, France, Italy, Russia)

102. With the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, in **1920**, **women got right to vote**
103. *The Great Depression* was the **longest economic recession** in modern history
104. *The Great Depression* started with **The Stock Market Crash of 1929**
105. **Franklin Roosevelt** was the *president* during *The Great Depression* and *World War II*
106. The U.S. entered *World War II* **after the bombing of Pearl Harbor** (Japanese attacked)
107. *Dwight Eisenhower* is famous for being a **general during World War II**
108. **Soviet Union** was U.S. *main rival* during the *Cold War*
109. **Communism** was one (1) *main concern* of the U.S. *during Cold War*
110. The U.S. entered the *Korean War* to **stop spread of communism**
111. The U.S. entered the *Vietnam War* to **stop spread of communism**
112. The *Civil Rights movement* **helped end racial discrimination**
113. *Martin Luther King, Jr.* was famous for his speech “I Had a Dream”, ensuring that people would “**not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the context of their character**”
114. The U.S. entered the *Persian Gulf War* to **force the Iraqi military from Kuwait**
115. **Terrorists attacked** the U.S. on *September 11, 2001* (9/11)
116. **War in Afghanistan** was a *military conflict after the terrorist attacks* (9/11)
117. **Apache** is an *American Indian tribe* in the U.S.
118. The **assembly line** was an *American innovation*

### III. Symbols and Holidays

#### A. Symbols

119. **Washington D.C.** is the *capital* of the United States
120. The *Statue of Liberty* is in **Liberty Island (New York)**
121. The flag has *thirteen (13) stripes* to **represent the original colonies**
122. The flag has *fifty (50) stars* to **represent each state**

123. **The Star-Spangled Banner** is the name of the *national anthem*

124. The nation's *first motto* was "*E Pluribus Unum*", meaning "**We all become one**"

## B. Holidays

125. *Independence Day* is a holiday to **celebrate U.S. independence from Britain**

126. **Presidents Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day** are three (3) U.S. holidays

127. *Memorial Day* is a holiday to **honor** soldiers who **died in military service**

128. *Veterans Day* is a holiday to **honor** people who **served in the military**