Study Guide: Civic Test 2020 Edition

# American Government

## Principles of American Democracy

1. A **federal republic** is the *form of governmen*t 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**.

## System of Government

1. The *three (3) branches of the government* are **legislative**, **executive** and **judicial**
2. The **President** is in charge of *the executive branch*
3. The **Congress (legislative branch)** *writes laws*
4. The **Senate** and **House of Representatives** makes up the *Congress*
5. The *powers of the Congress* are to **write laws**, **declare war**, and **federal budget**
6. There are **one hundred (100) senators**
7. **Six (6) years** is the term of a *senator*
8. **Tammy Duckworth** is one of the current *Illinois senators*
9. There are **four hundred thirty-five (435) voting members** in the *House of Representatives*
10. **Two (2) years** is the term for the *House of Representatives’ members*
11. U.S. *Representatives serve shorter terms* than *senators* to **follow public opinion more closely**
12. *Each state* has **two (2) senators**
13. There are *two (2) senators* for **equal representation and for The Great Compromise**
14. **Danny K. Davis** is my *U.S. Representative*
15. **Nancy Pelosi** is the *speaker* of the *House of Representatives*
16. **Senators represents** the *citizens of the states*
17. **Citizens elect** *senators*
18. A *member of the House of Representatives* **represents the citizens in their district**
19. *Citizens from their districts* **elects members** of the House of Representatives
20. Some states have *more representatives* because of the **population**
21. Every **four (4) years** the *President is elected*
22. The President can serve *only two (2) terms*, because of the **22nd amendment**, to **keep from becoming too powerful**
23. **Joseph Biden** is the *President*
24. **Kamala Harris** is the *Vice President*
25. The **Vice President** becomes the *President if can’t longer serve*
26. The *President* **enforces laws**
27. The *President* is the **Commander in Chief** of the military
28. The *President* **signs bills** to become laws
29. The *President* **vetoes bills**
30. The *President* **appoints federal judges**
31. The *President* is part of the **executive branch**
32. The **President’s Cabinet advises** the *President*
33. The **Secretary of the Treasury** and **State** are *two (2) cabinet level position*
34. The *Electoral College* *decides* **who is elected president**, and **compromises** between **popular election** and **congressional selection**
35. The *Supreme Court* is part of the **judicial branch**
36. The *judicial branch* **reviews**, **explains laws**, **resolves disputes** and decides if a **law goes against the constitution**
37. The *Supreme Court* is the **highest court** in the U.S.
38. There are **nine (9) seats** on the *Supreme Court*
39. **Five (5) Supreme Court Justices** are usually needed to **decide a case**
40. *Supreme Court Justices serve* a **lifetime** or **until retirement**
41. They *serve for life* to be **political independent** and **limit political influence**
42. **John Roberts** is the *Chief of Justice*
43. The *Federal Government* can **declare war**
44. Giving a **driver’s license** is a **power** that is *only for the State*
45. The **10th amendment** states that the *power not given to the federal government belong to the States or the people*
46. **J.B. Pritzker** is the *governor of Illinois*
47. **Springfield** is the *capital of Illinois*

## Rights and Responsibilities

1. **Any citizen can vote** *describes one (1)* out of four (4) *amendments* in the Constitution
2. *Citizens* can **vote in federal elections**, **run for federal office**, and **serve on a jury** in the U.S.
3. **Freedom of speech, expression and religion** are *three (3) rights of people* living in the U.S.
4. When we say the *Pledge of Allegiance*, we show **loyalty** to the **United States** and the **flag**
5. **Obey the laws** and **defend the Constitution** are *two (2) promises* new *citizens* make in the *Oath of Allegiance*
6. People can **naturalize**, **derive** citizenship or be **born** in the U.S. to *become citizens*
7. Two (2) examples of *civic participation* are to **vote** and **run for office**
8. By **paying taxes**, Americans can **serve their country**
9. It is *important to pay federal taxes* because it is **required by law**, by the **16th amendment**, it is a **civic duty**, and all **people** pay to **fund the federal government**
10. It is **required by law** and a **civic duty** to *register for selective service*, for men *18 to 25 years old*

# American History

## Colonial Period and Independence

1. The *colonists* came to America for **freedom**
2. **Natives** lived in America *before* the European arrived
3. **Africans** were sold as *slaves*
4. The **Revolutionary War** gave U.S. *independence*
5. **“Taxation without representation”** was *one reason America declared independence*
6. **Thomas Jefferson wrote** the *Declaration of Independence*
7. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776
8. The **Declaration of Independence** was an important *event from the America Revolution*
9. Five (5) out of thirteen (13) original states are: **New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Georgia**
10. The *U.S. Constitution* was written in **1787**
11. **Alexander Hamilton** was one of the *writers of the Federalist Papers*
12. *The Federalist Papers* are important because they **helped people understand** the Constitution, and **supported the passing** of it
13. *Benjamin Franklin* is famous for his **inventions**, one of them is the **lighting rod**
14. *George Washington* is famous for being the **first president** of the **U.S.**
15. *Thomas Jefferson* is famous for **writing the Declaration of Independence**
16. *James Madison* is famous for being **“Father of the Constitution”**
17. *Alexander Hamilton* is famous for being one of the **writers** of the **Federalist Papers**

## 1800s

1. United States bought **Louisiana** *from France* in **1803**
2. The **Civil War** was a war fought by the U.S. from **1861 to 1865**
3. The war between the **North** and the **South** was *the Civil War*
4. **Emancipation Proclamation** was an *important event* from the Civil War
5. *Abraham Lincoln* was famous for **freeing the slaves**
6. The **Emancipation Proclamation freed** the **slaves**
7. The *Civil War* **ended slavery**
8. The **14th Amendment** *gives citizenship* to people born in the U.S.
9. *After the Civil War*, **all men** got the right to vote
10. **Lucy Stone** was one (1) *leader of the women’s rights movements* in the 1800s

## Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

1. **Vietnam War** was fought by the U.S. form **1955-1975**
2. The *U.S. entered World War I,* to **support the Allied Powers** (England, France, Italy, Russia)
3. With the 19th Amendment, in **1920, women got right to vote**
4. *The Great Depression* was the **longest economic recession** in modern history
5. *The Great Depression* started with **The Stock Market Crash of 1929**
6. **Franklin Roosevelt** was the *president* during *The Great Depression* and *World War II*
7. The *U.S. entered World War II* **after the bombing of Pearl Harbor** (Japanese attacked)
8. *Dwight Eisenhower* is famous for being a **general during World War II**
9. **Soviet Union** was U.S. *main rival* during the *Cold War*
10. **Communism** was one (1) *main concern* of the U.S. *during Cold War*
11. The U.S. entered the *Korean War* to **stop spread of communism**
12. The U.S. entered the *Vietnam War* to **stop spread of communism**
13. The *Civil Rights movement* **helped end racial discrimination**
14. *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”**
15. The U.S. entered the *Persian Gulf War* to **force the Iraqi military from Kuwait**
16. **Terrorists attacked** the U.S. on *September 11, 2001* (9/11)
17. **War in Afghanistan** was a *military conflict after the terrorist attacks* (9/11)
18. **Apache** is an *American Indian tribe* in the U.S.
19. The **assembly line** was an *American innovation*

# Symbols and Holidays

## Symbols

1. **Washington D.C.** is the *capital* of the United States
2. The *Statue of Liberty* is in **Liberty Island (New York)**
3. The flag has *thirteen (13) stripes* to **represent the original colonies**
4. The flag has *fifty (50) stars* to **represent each state**
5. **The Star-Spangled Banner** is the name of the *national anthem*
6. The nation’s *first motto was “E Pluribus Unum”*, meaning **“We all become one”**

## Holidays

1. *Independence Day* is a holiday to **celebrate U.S. independence from Britain**
2. **Presidents Day**, **Memorial Day**, and **Independence Day** are three (3) U.S. holidays
3. *Memorial Day* is a holiday to **honor** soldiers who **died in military service**
4. *Veterans Day* is a holiday to **honor** people who **served in the military**