



Federal Bureau of Investigation

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**Required Information**

FIDELITY / BRAVERY / INTEGRITY

## Apply for Citizenship:

US citizenship provides many rights, but also involves many responsibilities. Thus, the decision to become a US citizen through naturalization is important. In most cases, a person who wants to naturalize must first be a permanent resident. By becoming a US citizen, you gain many rights that permanent residents or others do not have, including the right to vote. To be eligible for naturalization, you must first meet certain requirements set by US law.

To apply for naturalization, you will need to file Form N-400 (Application for Naturalization). Below you will find a general description of the application process.

## General Steps in the Naturalization Process:

### **Step 1: Determine if you are already a US citizen:**

**What to do:** If you are not a US citizen by birth, or you did not acquire or derive a US citizenship from your parent(s) automatically after birth, go to the next step.

### **Step 2: Determine if you are eligible to become a US citizen:**

**What to do:** Review the naturalization eligibility worksheet, to help you decide if you are eligible to apply for naturalization.

### **Step 3: Prepare your Form N-400 (Application for Naturalization):**

**What to do:** Read the instructions to complete Form N-400. Collect the necessary documents to demonstrate your eligibility for naturalization. If you reside outside the United States, get 2 passport-style photos taken. Use the document checklist to make sure you collect all the required documents.

### **Step 4: Submit your Form N-400 (Application for Naturalization):**

**What to do:** Once you submit Form N-400, USCIS will send you a receipt notice. You can check case processing times and your case status online.

### **Step 5: Go to the biometrics department, if applicable:**

**What to do:** If you need to take biometrics, USCIS will send you an appointment notice that includes your biometrics appointment date, time, and location. Arrive at the designated location at the scheduled time. Have your biometrics taken.

### **Step 6: Complete the interview:**

**What to do:** Once all the preliminary processes on your case are complete, USCIS will schedule an interview with you to complete the naturalization process. You must report to the USCIS office at the date and time on your appointment notice. Please bring the appointment notice with you. See below to learn more about the test and the free study tools available to help you prepare.

### **Step 7: Receive a decision from USCIS on your Form N-400 (Application for Naturalization):**

USCIS will issue you a written notice of decision:

»» **Granted:** USCIS may approve your Form N-400 if the evidence in your record establishes that you are eligible for naturalization.

»» **Continued:** USCIS may continue your application if you need to provide additional evidence/documentation, fail to provide USCIS the correct document, or fail the English and/or civics test the first time.

»» **Denied:** USCIS will deny your Form N-400 if the evidence in your record establishes you are not eligible for naturalization.

## **Step 8: Receive a notice to take the Oath of Allegiance:**

**What to expect:** If USCIS approved your Form N-400 in Step 7, you may be able to participate in a naturalization ceremony on the same day as your interview. If a same day naturalization ceremony is unavailable, USCIS will mail you a notification with date, time, and location of your scheduled ceremony.

## **Step 9: Take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States:**

You are not a US citizen until you take the *Oath of Allegiance* at a naturalization ceremony.

**What to do:** Complete the questionnaire on Form N-445 (Notice of Naturalization Oath Ceremony). Report for your naturalization ceremony and check in with USCIS. A USCIS officer will review your responses to Form N-445. Turn in your Permanent Resident Card (Green Card). Take the *Oath of Allegiance* to become a US citizen. Receive your Certificate of Naturalization, review it, and notify USCIS of any errors you see on your certificate before leaving the ceremony site.

## **Step 10: Understanding US citizenship:**

Citizenship is the common thread that connects all Americans.

## **Immigration Test:**

During your naturalization interview, a USCIS Officer will ask you questions about your application and background. You will also take an English and civics test unless you qualify for an exemption or waiver. The English test has three components: reading, writing, and speaking. The civics test covers important US history and government topics.

## **Speaking Test:**

Your ability to speak English will be determined by a USCIS Officer during your eligibility interview on Form N-400.

## **Reading Test:**

You must read aloud one of three sentences correctly to demonstrate your ability to read in English. The content focuses on civics and history topics.

People: *Abraham Lincoln, George Washington*

Civics: *American flag, Bill of Rights, capital, citizen, city, Congress, country, Father of Our Country, government, President, right, Senators, state(s), White House*

Places: *America, United States, US*

Holidays: *President's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving*

Question Words: *How, What, When, Where, Who, Why*

Verbs: *Can, come, do, does, elects, have, has, is, are, was, be, lives, lived, meet, name, pay, vote, want*

Other (Function): *A, for, here, in, of, on, the, to, we*

Other (Content): *Colors, dollar bill, first, largest, many, most, north, one, people, second, south*

## **Writing Test:**

You must write one out of three sentences correctly to demonstrate your ability to write in English. The content focuses on civics and history topics.

People: *Adams, Lincoln, Washington*

Civics: *American Indians, capital, citizens, Civil War, Congress, Father of Our Country, flag, free, Freedom of Speech, President, right, Senators, state(s), White House*

Places: *Alaska, California, Canada, Delaware, Mexico, New York City, United States, Washington, Washington, D.C.*

Months: *February, May, June, July, September, October, November*

Holidays: *President's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving*

Verbs: *Can, come, elect, have, has, is, was, be, lives, lived, meets, pay, vote, want*

Other (Function): *and, during, for, here, in, of on, the, to, we*

Other (Content): *blue, dollar bill, fifty, first, largest, most, north, one, one hundred, people, red, second, south, taxes, white*

## Civics Test:

There are 100 civics questions on the naturalization test. During your naturalization interview, you will be asked up to 10 questions from the list of 100 questions. You must answer correctly six of the 10 questions to pass the civics test.

You have two opportunities to take the English and civics test per application. If you fail any portion of the test during your first interview, you will be retested on the portion of the test that you failed between 60 and 90 days from the date of your initial interview.

The 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers for the naturalization test are listed below. The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS Officer will ask the applicant up to 10 of the 100 civics questions. On the naturalization test, some answers may change because of elections or appointments. As you study for the test, make sure that you know the most current answers to these questions. Answer these questions with the name of the official who is serving at the time of your eligibility interview with USCIS. The USCIS Officer will not accept an incorrect answer.

Although USCIS is aware that there may be additional correct answers to the 100 civics questions, applicants are encouraged to respond to the civics questions using the answers provided below.

### American Government:

#### A. 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 the 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 or addition to the Constitution
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 of Government
7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?  
»» 27
8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?  
»» Announce our independence from Great Britain  
»» Declared our independence from Great Britain  
»» Said that the United States is free

9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

- »» Life
- »» Liberty
- »» The pursuit of happiness

10. What is freedom of religion?

- »» You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion

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

- »» Capitalist Economy
- »» Market Economy

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

B. System of Government:

13. Name *one* branch or part of the government?

- »» Congress
- »» Legislative
- »» President
- »» Executive
- »» The Courts
- »» Judicial

14. What stops *one* branch of government from becoming too powerful?

- »» Checks and balances
- »» Separation of powers

15. Who oversees the executive branch?

- »» The President

16. Who makes federal laws?

- »» Congress
- »» Senate and House of Representatives
- »» US or national legislature

17. What are the *two* parts of US Congress?

- »» The Senate and House of Representatives

18. How many US Senators are there?

- »» 100

19. We elect a US Senator for how many years?

- »» 6

20. Who is *one* of your state’s US Senators now?

- »» Answers will vary

21. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

- »» 435

22. We elect a US Representative for how many years?

- »» 2

23. Name your US Representative?

- »» Answers will vary

24. Who does a US Senator represent?

- »» All people of the state

25. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

- »» Because of the state’s population



26. We elect a President for how many years?  
»» 4
27. In what month do we vote for President?  
»» November
28. What is the name of the President of United States now?  
»» Answer will vary
29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?  
»» Answer will vary
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
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
35. What does the President's Cabinet do?  
»» Advises the President
36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?  
»» Secretary of Agriculture  
»» Secretary of Commerce  
»» Secretary of Defense  
»» 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 State  
»» Secretary of Transportation  
»» Secretary of the Treasury  
»» Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
»» Attorney General  
»» Vice President
37. What does the judicial branch do?  
»» Reviews Laws  
»» Explains Laws  
»» Resolves Disputes?  
»» Decides if a law goes against the Constitution
38. What is the highest court in the US?  
»» The Supreme Court
39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?  
»» Answer will vary
40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?  
»» Answer will vary

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 in the form of police
  - »» Provide safety in the form of fire departments
  - »» Give a driver's license
  - »» Approve a zoning and land use
43. Who is the Governor of your state now?
  - »» Answer will vary
44. What is the capital of your state?
  - »» Answer will vary
45. What are the *two* major political parties in the US?
  - »» Democratic
  - »» Republican
46. What is the political part of the President now?
  - »» Answer will vary
47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House now?
  - »» Answer will vary

C. Rights and Responsibilities:

48. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe *one* of them:
  - »» Citizens 18 and older
  - »» You don't have to pay a poll tax to vote
  - »» Any citizen can vote
  - »» A male citizen of any race can vote
49. What is *one* responsibility that is only for US citizens?
  - »» Serve on a jury
  - »» Vote in a federal election
50. Name *one* right only for US citizens:
  - »» Vote in a federal election
  - »» Run for federal office
51. What are *two* rights of everyone living in the US?
  - »» Freedom of Expression
  - »» Freedom of Speech
  - »» Freedom of Assembly
  - »» Freedom to Petition the Government
  - »» Freedom of Religion
  - »» The Right to Bear Arms
52. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
  - »» The United States
  - »» The flag
53. What is *one* promise you make when you become a United States citizen?
  - »» Give up loyalty to other countries
  - »» Defend and obey the Constitution and laws of the United States
  - »» Serve in the US military (if needed)
  - »» Be loyal to the United States

- 54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?
  - »» 18 and older
- 55. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?
  - »» Vote
  - »» Join a political party
  - »» Help with a campaign
  - »» Join a civic or community 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 a federal income tax form?
  - »» April 15
- 57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?
  - »» At age 18
  - »» Between 18 and 26

## **American History:**

### **A. Colonial Period and Independence:**

- 58. What is one reason colonists came to America?
  - »» Political Liberty
  - »» Religious Freedom
  - »» Economic Opportunity
- 59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
  - »» American Indians
  - »» Native Americans
- 60. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?
  - »» Africans
- 61. Why did the colonists fight the British?
  - »» Because of high taxes (taxes without representation)
  - »» Because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding and quartering)
  - »» Because they didn't have self-government
- 62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
  - »» Thomas Jefferson
- 63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
  - »» July 4, 1776
- 64. Name *three* of the 13 original states:
  - »» New Hampshire
  - »» Massachusetts
  - »» Rhode Island
  - »» Connecticut
  - »» New York
  - »» New Jersey
  - »» Pennsylvania
  - »» Delaware
  - »» Maryland
  - »» Virginia
  - »» North and South Carolina
  - »» Georgia



- 65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
  - »» The Constitution was written by The Founding Fathers
- 66. When was the Constitution written?
  - »» 1787
- 67. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the US Constitution. Name *one* of the writers:
  - »» James Madison
  - »» Alexander Hamilton
  - »» John Jay
  - »» Publius
- 68. What is *one* thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?
  - »» US 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\

**B. 1800s:**

- 71. What territory did the US buy from France in 1803?
  - »» Louisiana
- 72. Name *one* war fought by the US in the 1800s:
  - »» War of 1812
  - »» Mexican-American War
  - »» Civil War
  - »» Spanish-American War
- 73. Name the US war between the North and the South:
  - »» The Civil War
- 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?
  - »» Feed the Slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)
  - »» Saved 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

**C. Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information:**

- 78. Name *one* war fought by the US in the 1900s:
  - »» World War I & II
  - »» Korean War
  - »» Vietnam War

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
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 US?  
»» Terrorists attacked the US
87. Name *one* American Indian tribe in the US?  
»» Cherokee  
»» Navajo  
»» Sioux  
»» Chippewa  
»» Choctaw  
»» Pueblo  
»» Apache  
»» Iroquois  
»» Creek  
»» Blackfeet  
»» Seminole  
»» Cheyenne  
»» Arawak  
»» Shawnee  
»» Mohegan  
»» Huron  
»» Oneida  
»» Lakota  
»» Crow  
»» Teton  
»» Hopi  
»» Inuit

## Integrated Civics:

### A. Geography:

88. Name *one* of the two longest rivers in the US:  
»» Missouri River  
»» Mississippi River
89. What ocean is on the West Coast of the US:  
»» Pacific Ocean
90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the US:  
»» Atlantic Ocean

91. Name *one* US territory:

- »» Puerto Rico
- »» US Virgin Islands
- »» American Samoa
- »» Northern Mariana Islands
- »» Guam

92. Name *one* state that borders Canada:

- »» Maine
- »» New Hampshire
- »» Vermont
- »» New York
- »» Pennsylvania
- »» Ohio
- »» Michigan
- »» Minnesota
- »» North Dakota
- »» Montana
- »» Idaho
- »» Washington
- »» Alaska

93. Name *one* state that borders Mexico:

- »» California
- »» Arizona
- »» New Mexico
- »» Texas

94. What is the capital of the US?

- »» Washington, DC

95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?

- »» New York
- »» Liberty Island

**B. Symbols:**

96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

- »» Because there were 13 original colonies

97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?

- »» Because there is one star for each state

98. What is the name of the national anthem?

- »» The Star-Spangled Banner

**C. Holidays:**

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?

- »» July 4

100. Name *two* national US holidays:

- »» New Year's Day
- »» Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- »» President's Day
- »» Memorial Day
- »» Independence Day
- »» Labor Day
- »» Veteran's Day
- »» Thanksgiving
- »» Christmas