

Pledge of Allegiance

U.S. Territory

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

100 Civics Questions and Answers

**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 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 (to the Constitution)
  - ✓ An 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?**
  - ✓ Religion
  - ✓ Assembly
  - ✓ Press
  - ✓ Petition the government
  
- 7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?**
  - ✓ Twenty-seven (27)

**8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?**

- ✓ Announced our independence (from Great Britain)
- ✓ Declared our independence (from Great Britain)
- ✓ Said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)

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

- ✓ Life
- ✓ Liberty
- ✓ 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 is in charge of the executive branch?**

- ✓ The President

**16. Who makes federal laws?**

- ✓ Congress
- ✓ Senate and House (of Representatives)
- ✓ (U.S. or national) legislature

**17. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?**

- ✓ The Senate and House (of Representatives)

**18. How many U.S. Senators are there?**

- ✓ One Hundred (100)

**19. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?**

- ✓ Six (6)

**20. Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators now?**

- ✓ Mike Lee
- ✓ Orrin Hatch

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

- ✓ Four Hundred Thirty-Five (435)

**22. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?**

- ✓ Two (2)

**23. Name one of your U.S. Representatives.**

- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> District- Rob Bishop
- ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> District- Chris Stewart
- ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> District- Jason Chaffetz
- ✓ 4<sup>th</sup> District- Mia Love

**24. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?**

- ✓ All people of the state

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

- ✓ (because of) the state's population
- ✓ (because) they have more people
- ✓ (because) some states have more people

**26. We elect a President for how many years?**

- ✓ Four (4)

**27. In what month do we vote for President?**

- ✓ November

**28. What is the name of the President of the United States now?**

- ✓ Donald John Trump
- ✓ Donald Trump
- ✓ Trump

**29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?**

- ✓ Michael Richard Pence
- ✓ Mike Pence
- ✓ Pence

**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? (Choose any two)**

- ✓ 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 (disagreements)
- ✓ Decides if a law goes against the Constitution

**38. What is the highest court in the United States?**

- ✓ The Supreme Court

**39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?**

- ✓ Nine (9)

**40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?**

- ✓ John Roberts (John G. Roberts, Jr.)

**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 (police)
- ✓ Provide safety (fire departments)
- ✓ Give a driver's license
- ✓ Approve zoning and land use

**43. Who is the Governor of your state now?**

- ✓ Gary Herbert

**44. What is the capital of your state?**

- ✓ Salt Lake City

**45. What are the two major political parties in the United States?**

- ✓ Democratic and Republican

**46. What is the political party of the President now?**

- ✓ Democratic (Party)

**47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?**

- ✓ Paul Ryan

### **C: Rights and Responsibilities**

**48. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote.**

**Describe one of them.**

- ✓ Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).
- ✓ You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.
- ✓ Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)
- ✓ A male citizen of any race (can vote).

**49. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?**

- ✓ Serve on a jury
- ✓ Vote in a federal election

**50. Name one right only for United States citizens.**

- ✓ Vote in a federal election
- ✓ Run for federal office

**51. What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?**

- ✓ Freedom of expression
- ✓ Freedom of speech
- ✓ Freedom of assembly
- ✓ Freedom to petition the government
- ✓ Freedom of worship
- ✓ 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 the Constitution and laws of the United States
- ✓ Obey the laws of the United States
- ✓ Serve in the U.S. military (if needed)
- ✓ Serve (do important work for) the nation (if needed)
- ✓ Be loyal to the United States

**54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?**

- ✓ Eighteen (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 group
- ✓ Join a 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 federal income tax forms?**

- ✓ April 15

**57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?**

- ✓ At age eighteen (18)
- ✓ Between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)

# AMERICAN HISTORY

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

**58. What is one reason colonists came to America?**

- ✓ Freedom
- ✓ Political liberty
- ✓ Religious freedom
- ✓ Economic opportunity
- ✓ Practice their religion
- ✓ Escape persecution

**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
- ✓ People from Africa

**61. Why did the colonists fight the British?**

- ✓ Because of high taxes (taxation without representation)
- ✓ Because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, 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. There were 13 original states. Name three.**

- ✓ New Hampshire
- ✓ South Carolina
- ✓ Georgia
- ✓ Massachusetts
- ✓ Rhode Island
- ✓ Connecticut
- ✓ New York
- ✓ New Jersey
- ✓ Pennsylvania
- ✓ Delaware
- ✓ Maryland
- ✓ Virginia
- ✓ North Carolina

**65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?**

- ✓ The Constitution was written.
- ✓ The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.

**66. When was the Constitution written?**

- ✓ 1787

**67. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution.**

**Name one of the writers.**

- ✓ James Madison
- ✓ Alexander Hamilton
- ✓ John Jay
- ✓ Publius

**68. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?**

- ✓ U.S. 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 United States buy from France in 1803?**

- ✓ The Louisiana Territory
- ✓ Louisiana

**72. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.**

- ✓ War of 1812
- ✓ Mexican-American War
- ✓ Civil War
- ✓ Spanish-American War

**73. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.**

- ✓ The Civil War
- ✓ The War between the States

**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?**

- ✓ Freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)
- ✓ Saved (or preserved) 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 United States in the 1900s.**

- ✓ World War I
- ✓ World War II
- ✓ Korean War
- ✓ Vietnam War
- ✓ (Persian) Gulf 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 United States?**

- ✓ Terrorists attacked the United States.

**87. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.** [USCIS Officers will be supplied with a list of federally recognized American Indian tribes.]

- ✓ 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 United States.**

- ✓ Missouri (River)
- ✓ Mississippi (River)

**89. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?**

- ✓ Pacific (Ocean)

**90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?**

- ✓ Atlantic (Ocean)

**91. Name one U.S. territory.**

- ✓ Puerto Rico
- ✓ U.S. 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 United States?**

- ✓ Washington, D.C.

**95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?**

- ✓ New York (Harbor)
- ✓ Liberty Island

[Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]

## **B: Symbols**

**96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?**

- ✓ Because there were 13 original colonies
- ✓ Because the stripes represent the original colonies

**97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?**

- ✓ Because there is one star for each state
- ✓ Because each star represents a state
- ✓ Because there are 50 states

**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 U.S. holidays.**

- ✓ New Year's Day
- ✓ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- ✓ Presidents' Day
- ✓ Memorial Day
- ✓ Independence Day
- ✓ Labor Day
- ✓ Columbus Day
- ✓ Veterans Day
- ✓ Thanksgiving
- ✓ Christmas

**Additional Resources:**

<http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/teachers/educational-products/100-civics-questions-and-answers-mp3-audio-english-version>