Civics Flash Cards
for the New Naturalization Test

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

M-623 (rev. 03/09)
Instructions for cutting and folding cards

Cut the cards on the dashed line.

Print the cards on 8 1/2” x 11” paper. Cut and fold to make flash cards. Fasten the two sides together with tape, glue or staples.

Use as a study tool. Pick up a card and read the question. When you are ready to answer, turn the card over and see if your answer is correct.
The 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers for the new naturalization test are included in these flash cards. The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS Officer will ask the applicant up to 10 of the 100 civics questions. An applicant must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test.

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 on these flash cards.

If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk (*).
Question 1
What is the supreme law of the land?

the Constitution

Question 2
What does the Constitution do?

sets up the government
defines the government
protects basic rights of Americans

The National Mall in Washington, D.C., seen from the observation area of the Washington Monument, circa 1945.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USW35-088713-C.
The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?

We the People

* a change (to the Constitution)
* an addition (to the Constitution)

The 20th Amendment to the Constitution.

We the People, the first three words of the preamble to the Constitution of the United States. Courtesy of the National Archives.
Question 5

What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

the Bill of Rights

Question 6

What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?*

* speech
* religion
* assembly
* press
* petition the government

A newspaper stand in 1941.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USF36-004-001359-G-C.
Question 7

How many amendments does the Constitution have?

twenty-seven (27)

Portrait of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, seated, and Susan B. Anthony, standing, advocates for the rights of women to vote.


Question 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)

Question 9

What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

* life
* liberty
* pursuit of happiness

Question 10

What is freedom of religion?

You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.
Question 11

What is the economic system in the United States?*

- capitalist economy
- market economy

Question 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.

* The Contemplation of Justice statue outside the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
Question 13

Name one branch or part of the government.*

- Congress
- legislative
- President
- executive
- the courts
- judicial

The U.S. Capitol (legislative branch) and the U.S. Supreme Court (judicial branch) buildings in Washington, D.C.

Question 14

What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

- checks and balances
- separation of powers
Question 15

Who is in charge of the executive branch?

the President

The White House in Washington, D.C.

Question 16

Who makes federal laws?

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

The U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.
Question 17

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

Question 18

How many U.S. Senators are there?

the Senate and House (of Representatives)

one hundred (100)
Question 19

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

Courtesy of the U.S. Senate Historical Office.

six (6)

Question 20

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

Answers will vary.

[District of Columbia residents and residents of U.S. territories should answer that D.C. (or the territory where the applicant lives) has no U.S. Senators.]

Hiram Revels of Mississippi became the first African American Senator in 1870.
**Question 21**

The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

*four hundred thirty-five (435)*


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**Question 22**

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

*two (2)*

Name your
U.S. Representative.

Answers will vary.
[Residents of territories with nonvoting Delegates or Resident Commissioners may provide the name of that Delegate or Commissioner. Also acceptable is any statement that the territory has no (voting) Representatives in Congress.]

Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-46158.

Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

all people of the state
Question 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

The Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.
Courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.

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Question 26

We elect a President for how many years?

four (4)

The inauguration of President Theodore Roosevelt on March 4, 1905.
In what month do we vote for President?*

November

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

* Barack Obama

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

* Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
* Joe Biden
* Biden

Question 30
If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
Question 31
If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

The Speaker of the House
The rostrum, a place for public speaking, is the location from which the Speaker of the House presides. Courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.

Question 32
Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?

the President
President Franklin D. Roosevelt reviewing American troops in Casablanca, Morocco during World War II. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USW33-0278-A2C.
Question 33

Who signs bills to become laws?

the President

President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Immigration Act of 1965 on October 3rd of that same year, Liberty Island, NY. Courtesy of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum.

Question 34

Who vetoes bills?

the President

The White House in Washington, D.C.
What does the President’s Cabinet do?

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
What does the judicial branch do?

- reviews laws
- explains laws
- resolves disputes (disagreements)
- decides if a law goes against the Constitution

The Courtroom of the U.S. Supreme Court building, where the Court has sat since 1935. Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.

What is the highest court in the United States?

the Supreme Court

West facade of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

nine (9)

Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

John Roberts (John G. Roberts, Jr.)
**Question 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

President Woodrow Wilson asking Congress to declare war on Germany, April 2, 1917. Courtesy of the Library of Congress. LC-DIG-ppmsca-73737.

**Question 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
Question 43

Who is the Governor of your state now?

Answers will vary.
[District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. does not have a Governor.]

Question 44

What is the capital of your state?*

Answers will vary.
[District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. is not a state and does not have a capital. Residents of U.S. territories should name the capital of the territory.]
Question 45

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

Democratic and Republican


Question 46

What is the political party of the President now?

Democratic (Party)

Question 47

What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

(Nancy) Pelosi

Nancy Pelosi, the first woman to serve as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Courtesy of the U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Photography.

Question 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).

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

- serve on a jury
- vote in a federal election

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

- vote in a federal election
- run for federal office

**Question 51**

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

**Question 52**

What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

- freedom of expression
- freedom of speech
- freedom of assembly
- freedom to petition the government
- freedom of worship
- the right to bear arms

Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy speaking at a racial equality demonstration outside the Justice Department on June 14, 1963.

- the United States
- the flag

A young boy pledging allegiance at a naturalization ceremony in 1962.

* Courtesy of the USCIS Historical Library, BOKA-A, Box 152.
Question 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

Question 54

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

eighteen (18) and older
**Question 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

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**Question 56**

When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?*

April 15
Question 57

When must all men register for the Selective Service?

- at age eighteen (18)
- between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)

World War I draft registration card of Irving Berlin, an American composer who became a naturalized citizen in 1918. Courtesy of the National Archives.

Question 58

What is one reason colonists came to America?

- freedom
- political liberty
- religious freedom
- economic opportunity
- practice their religion
- escape persecution

Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

* American Indians
* Native Americans


What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?

* Africans
* people from Africa

Why did the colonists fight the British?

- because of high taxes (taxation without representation)
- because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

(Thomas)
Jefferson
Question 63

When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

July 4, 1776

In “Declaration of Independence,” a painting by John Trumbull, Thomas Jefferson and his committee present the formal statement of independence from Great Britain. Courtesy of the National Archives, NARA File #144-GW-442.

Question 64

There were 13 original states. Name three.

- New Hampshire
- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island
- Connecticut
- New York
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Delaware
- Maryland
- Virginia
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Georgia
What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

* The Constitution was written.

* The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.


When was the Constitution written?

1787

Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA, where the Constitution was signed in 1787.
The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.

* (James) Madison
* (Alexander) Hamilton
* (John) Jay
* Publius

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

Question 69

Who is the “Father of Our Country”?

(George) Washington

Courtesy of the U.S. Senate. Catalog #: 31.00062.000.

Question 70

Who was the first President?*

(George) Washington

“Washington Crossing the Delaware,” by Emanuel Leutze.
Courtesy of the National Archives, NASA P/8 584-0-152-D-24.
Question 71

What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

* Territory of the Louisiana Purchase

Question 72

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

* War of 1812
* Mexican-American War
* Civil War
* Spanish-American War
Question 73

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

* the Civil War
* the War between the States


Question 74

Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

* slavery
* economic reasons
* states’ rights

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


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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

**Question 77**

What did Susan B. Anthony do?

- Fought for women’s rights
- Fought for civil rights

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**Question 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

Question 79

Who was President during World War I?

(Woodrow) Wilson


Question 80

Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?

(Franklin) Roosevelt

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing the Declaration of War against Japan on December 8, 1941. Courtesy of the National Archives.
Question 81

Who did the United States fight in World War II?

Japan, Germany, and Italy

Surrender of Japan, September 2, 1945.
General Douglas MacArthur signs as Supreme Allied Commander during formal surrender ceremonies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Courtesy of the National Archives.

Question 82

Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?

World War II

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1945. Courtesy of the National Archives.
During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?

Communism

Germans from East and West stand on the Berlin Wall in front of the Brandenburg Gate in this November 10, 1989 photo, one day after the wall opened. The Berlin Wall was a symbol of the tyranny that restrained freedom throughout the Communist bloc of Eastern Europe during the Cold War. AP Images/STR.

What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

civil rights (movement)

What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?*

* fought for civil rights
* worked for equality for all Americans

Martin Luther King, Jr.

What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?

Terrorists attacked the United States.

Firefighters unfurl a large American flag over the scarred stone of the Pentagon on September 12, 2001. White House photo by Paul Morse.
Question 87
Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

- Cherokee
- Navajo
- Sioux
- Chippewa
- Choctaw
- Pueblo
- Apache
- Iroquois
- Creek
- Blackfeet
- Seminole
- Cheyenne
- Arawak
- Shawnee
- Mohegan
- Huron
- Oneida
- Lakota
- Crow
- Teton
- Hopi
- Inuit


Question 88
Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

- Missouri (River)
- Mississippi (River)

The Mississippi River near Minneapolis, MN.
What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?  
Pacific (Ocean)

What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?  
Atlantic (Ocean)
Question 91

Name one U.S. territory.

Puerto Rico
U.S. Virgin Islands
American Samoa
Northern Mariana Islands
Guam

Old Spanish Bridge in Umatac, Guam.
Courtesy of the Office of U.S. Representative Madeleine Z. Bordallo.

Question 92

Name one state that borders Canada.

Maine
New Hampshire
Vermont
New York
Pennsylvania
Ohio
Michigan
Minnesota
North Dakota
Idaho
Washington
Alaska
Montana
Question 93

Name one state that borders Mexico.

- California
- Arizona
- New Mexico
- Texas

Question 94

What is the capital of the United States?*

Washington, D.C.

A view of Washington, D.C., from Virginia, across the Potomac River. The view shows the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the U.S. Capitol.
Question 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).]

Question 96

Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

★ because there were 13 original colonies
★ because the stripes represent the original colonies
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

What is the name of the national anthem?

The Star-Spangled Banner

In “The Star-Spangled Banner,” by Percy Moran, Francis Scott Key reaches toward the flag flying over Fort McHenry.

Question 99

When do we celebrate Independence Day?*

Question 100

Name two national U.S. holidays.

July 4

Patriotic celebration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

* New Year’s Day
* Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
* Presidents’ Day
* Memorial Day
* Independence Day
* Labor Day
* Columbus Day
* Veterans Day
* Thanksgiving
* Christmas

Atlantic Pavilion at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.
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