Preparing for the Naturalization Test

A Pocket Study Guide

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

M-1122 (01/17)

Preparing for the Naturalization Test

A Pocket Study Guide

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Preparing for the Naturalization Test
A Pocket Study Guide

Are you thinking about applying for naturalization?

This pocket study guide will help you prepare for the naturalization test. If you were not born in the United States, naturalization is the way that you can voluntarily become a U.S. citizen. To become a naturalized U.S. citizen, you must pass the naturalization test. We've provided you with the civics test questions and answers, and the reading and writing vocabulary to help you study.

Additionally, this guide contains general information on naturalization eligibility requirements on **page 2**.

To learn about and study for the civics portion of the naturalization test, turn to **page 5**.

To learn about and study for the English portion of the naturalization test, turn to **page 27**.

You can find more resources to help you prepare in the back of the study guide on **page 36**.

General Eligibility Requirements

Before you apply for naturalization, you must meet a few requirements. Depending on your situation, different requirements may apply to you. Below is a list of the general eligibility requirements.

- Be at least 18 years old at the time you file Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.
- Be a permanent resident (have a "Green Card") for at least five years.
- Show that you have lived for at least three months in the state or USCIS district where you apply.
- Demonstrate continuous residence in the United States for at least five years immediately preceding the date of filing Form N-400.
- Show that you have been physically present in the United States for at least 30 months out of the five years immediately preceding the date of filing Form N-400.
- Be able to read, write, and speak basic English.
- Have a basic understanding of U.S. history and government (civics).
- Be a person of good moral character.
- Demonstrate an attachment to the principles and ideals of the U.S. Constitution.

For more information, visit *A Guide to Naturalization* at **www.uscis.gov/natzguide**.

Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities

Citizenship offers many benefits and equally important responsibilities. When you naturalize, you agree to accept all of the responsibilities of becoming a U.S. citizen. You agree to support the United States, its Constitution, and its laws. In return, you gain all the rights and privileges of citizenship such as the right to vote and travel with a U.S. passport.

The Naturalization 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.

English Test

The English test has three components: reading, writing, and speaking. For the reading test, you must read one out of three sentences correctly to demonstrate an ability to read in English. There is a reading vocabulary list on **page 28** with all the words found in the English reading portion of the naturalization test.

For the writing test, you must write one out of three sentences correctly to demonstrate an ability to write in English. There is a writing

vocabulary list on **page 31** with all the words found in the English writing portion of the naturalization test.

Your ability to speak English is determined by the USCIS officer based on your answers to questions normally asked during the naturalization interview.

Civics Test

The civics test covers important U.S. history and government topics. 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 6 of the 10 questions to pass the civics test.

Retaking the Naturalization Test

You have two opportunities to take the English and civics tests 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 at a second interview. USCIS will schedule you to return to be retested between 60 and 90 days after the date of your initial interview.

Exceptions

Certain applicants, because of age and time as a permanent resident, are exempt from the English requirements for naturalization and may take the civics test in the language of their choice. For more information, visit **www.uscis.gov/citizenship**.

Study Materials for the Civics Portion of the Naturalization Test

Civics (History and Government) Questions for the Naturalization Test

The 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers for the naturalization test are listed on the following pages. The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS officer will ask you up to 10 of the 100 civics questions. You must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of 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, you are encouraged to respond to the civics questions using the answers provided in this pocket study guide.

65/20 Civics Test Exemption

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 (*).

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 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?***
   - *speech*
   - *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?*

- 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.]

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 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.]*

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 J. Trump*
- *Donald Trump*
- *Trump*

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

- *Michael R. 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 <u>two</u> 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 (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?

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

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.]*

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?

- *Republican (Party)*

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

- *Paul D. Ryan*
- *(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 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 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 <u>three</u>.

- *New Hampshire*
- *Massachusetts*
- *Rhode Island*
- *Connecticut*
- *New York*
- *New Jersey*
- *Pennsylvania*
- *Delaware*
- *Maryland*

- *Virginia*
- *North Carolina*
- *South Carolina*
- *Georgia*

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*

Study Materials for the English Portion of the Naturalization Test

★★★★★

English Test

According to the law, an applicant must demonstrate "an understanding of the English language, including an ability to read, write, and speak...simple words and phrases...in ordinary usage in the English language."

This means that you must be able to read, write, and speak basic English in order to be eligible for naturalization. You are required to pass each of the three components of the English test.

Reading Portion

Each reading test administered to you will contain no more than three sentences. You must read one out of three sentences correctly to demonstrate an ability to read in English.

To help you prepare, see the reading vocabulary list on **page 28** containing all the words found in the English reading portion of

the naturalization test. The content focuses on civics and history topics.

Writing Portion

To test your ability to write in English, you must write one out of three sentences correctly in order to demonstrate an ability to write in English.

To help you prepare, see the writing vocabulary list on **page 31** containing all the words found in the English writing portion of the naturalization test. The content focuses on civics and history topics.

Speaking Portion

At your naturalization interview, a USCIS officer will determine your ability to speak English.

Reading Vocabulary List

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/states
- White House

PLACES

- America
- United States
- U.S.

HOLIDAYS

- Presidents' 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 Vocabulary List

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/states
- 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

- Presidents' 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/50
- first
- largest
- most
- north
- one
- one hundred/100
- people
- red
- second
- south
- taxes
- white

More Resources to Help You Prepare

Visit the **USCIS Citizenship Resource Center** at **www.uscis.gov/citizenship** for free citizenship preparation materials. Be sure to look for these helpful study tools:

- **A Guide to Naturalization**
  This guide provides an overview of the naturalization process, information on the benefits and responsibilities of citizenship, eligibility requirements, and what to expect at your naturalization interview.

- **Form N-400, Application for Naturalization**
  Use this form to apply for U.S. citizenship.

- **100 Civics Questions and Answers for the Naturalization Test**
  The official list of civics questions and answers for the naturalization test is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

- **Civics Flash Cards for the Naturalization Test**
  These easy-to-use cards include each of the 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers on the naturalization test.

- **Learn About the United States: Quick Civics Lessons for the Naturalization Test**
  This study booklet contains short lessons based on each of the 100 civics questions and answers on the naturalization test.

- **Preparing for the Oath: U.S. History and Civics for Citizenship**
  This online resource provides videos and interactive activities on the 100 civics questions and answers and highlights museum objects from the Smithsonian Institution.

- **The USCIS Naturalization Interview and Test Video**
  This short video provides an overview of the naturalization process and testing requirements. The video highlights scenes from the naturalization interview, including the naturalization test.

- **Interactive Practice Tests (English portion of the naturalization test)**

  1. **Understanding Commands for the Naturalization Interview**
     This activity has commands that you may hear during the naturalization interview.

  2. **Vocabulary for the Naturalization Interview: Self-Test 1**
     This reading activity has words and phrases that you may read on Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, or hear during the naturalization interview.

  3. **Vocabulary for the Naturalization Interview: Self-Test 2**
     This reading and listening activity has words and phrases that an applicant may read on Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, or hear during the naturalization interview.

- **Naturalization Practice Test (civics portion of the naturalization test)**
  Online study tool to help test your knowledge of U.S. history and government.

- **Find Help in Your Community**
  Find an English and/or citizenship class, legal assistance, and USCIS-funded programs in your area.

- **Naturalization Information Sessions**
  USCIS regularly holds information sessions for the public to learn about naturalization eligibility, testing, and citizenship rights and responsibilities. Upcoming events are listed on the Citizenship Resource Center.

- **Information in Other Languages**
  Find USCIS citizenship publications and resources available in other languages as you prepare for U.S. citizenship.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

www.uscis.gov/citizenship