

# Learn About the United States

## Civics Test

### **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?**

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 of United States? \***

Capitalism economy

Market economy

**12. What is the rule of the law?**

Everyone must follow the law

Leaders must obey the law

Government must obey the law

No one is above of 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 the federal laws?**

The Congress

Senate and House of representatives

Us 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 U.S. Senator for how many years?**

Six years (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 and thirty five (435)

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

Two years (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? \***

George W. Bush

George Bush

Bush

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

Richard Cheney

Dick Cheney

Cheney

**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 bill to become laws?**

The President

**34. Who votes 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 Interior

Secretary of Labor

Secretary of State

Secretary of Transportation

Secretary of Treasury

Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Attorney General

Vice President

**37. What does the judicial branch do?**

Review the laws

Explain the 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 Roberts, Jr.)

**41. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government.**

**What is one power of the federal government?**

To print the money

To declare war

To create 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?**

Answer will vary. [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. does not have 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 representatives now?**

Nancy Pelosi

### **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 citizen?\***

Serve on the jury

Vote in a federal election

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

Vote in 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 of petition of governments  
Freedom of worship  
The right of 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 others countries.  
Defend the Constitution and laws of United States.  
Obey the laws of 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 citizen have to be to vote for President? \***

Eighteen (18)

**55. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?**

Vote  
Enjoy 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 that you can send a federal tax?\***

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

### **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 slaves?**

Africans  
People from Africa

### **61. Why did the colonist 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  
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

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

The Louisiana Territory  
Louisiana

**72. Name one war fought by 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 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

**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.**

Cherokee

Navajo

Sioux

Chippewa

Choctaw

Pueblo

Apache

Iroquois

Creek

Blackfeet

Seminole

Cheyenne

Arawak

Shawnee

Mohegan

Huron

Oneida

Lakota

Crow

Teton

Hopi

Inuit

**GEOGRAPHY:**

**88. Name one of 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 Statute of the Liberty?\***

New York (Harbor)

Liberty Island

**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 represent a state

Because there are 50 states

**98. What is the name of the national anthem?**

The Star-Spangled Banner

**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

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