

U.S. Citizenship Civics Test — Cheat Sheet

Which test you take, and the answers most often asked. Free from Exam Practice Hub.

Which test do you take? Your filing date decides

USCIS changed the civics test on 20 October 2025, and it depends on your FILING date, not your interview date. Filed Form N-400 BEFORE 20 Oct 2025 — the 2008 test: 100 possible questions, you are asked up to 10, you need 6 correct. Filed ON or AFTER 20 Oct 2025 — the 2025 test: 128 possible questions, you are asked up to 20, you need 12 correct.

Principles of American democracy

Supreme law of the land	The Constitution
First three words	We the People
Changes to the Constitution	Amendments — there are 27
First ten amendments	The Bill of Rights
Freedoms in the 1st Amendment	Religion, speech, press, assembly, petition (five)
Right to bear arms	2nd Amendment — NOT the 1st
Declaration of Independence	Adopted 4 July 1776, written by Thomas Jefferson
Economic system	Capitalist / market economy
Rule of law	Everyone must follow the law; no one is above it

System of government

Three branches	Legislative, Executive, Judicial
Stops one branch dominating	Checks and balances / separation of powers
Congress	Senate and House of Representatives
Senators	100 total — two per state, six-year terms
Representatives	435 voting members, two-year terms
Who declares war	Congress — not the President
President's term	Four years
Commander in Chief	The President
Supreme Court justices	Nine
Federal vs state	Federal: print money, declare war, interstate trade. State: schools, licences, local police

Rights and responsibilities

- Citizens ONLY: **vote in federal elections, serve on a federal jury**, hold a U.S. passport, run for federal office.
- Everyone living in the U.S.: pay taxes, obey the law, register for Selective Service (males 18-25).
- The Oath of Allegiance includes giving up loyalty to other countries and serving the nation if required.
- Two rights in the Declaration of Independence: **life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness**.

History — the questions asked most

Why colonists came	Freedom, political liberty, religious freedom, economic opportunity
Who lived here first	Native Americans / American Indians
Father of Our Country	George Washington, the first President
Wrote the Federalist Papers	Hamilton, Madison, Jay (as 'Publius')
Louisiana Purchase	1803 — the U.S. bought territory from France
Civil War problem	Slavery
Emancipation Proclamation	Lincoln — freed slaves in Confederate states
Abolished slavery	13th Amendment
Women's right to vote	19th Amendment, 1920
Voting age to 18	26th Amendment

Geography, symbols and holidays

Longest rivers	Missouri and Mississippi
Ocean on the west coast	Pacific
Ocean on the east coast	Atlantic
Capital of the U.S.	Washington, D.C.
Statue of Liberty	New York Harbor / Liberty Island — a gift from France
Why 13 stripes	The 13 original colonies
Why 50 stars	One for each state
National anthem	The Star-Spangled Banner
Independence Day	4 July
Two national holidays	Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Presidents Day

At the interview

- The officer asks the civics questions **orally** — you must answer out loud, not point at a sheet.
- You stop as soon as you have enough correct answers, so the strongest topics are worth learning first.
- You also take **reading** and **writing** tests in English unless you qualify for an exemption.
- Common exemptions: **50/20** and **55/15** (age and years as a permanent resident) allow the civics test in your own language.
- **65/20** applicants may study a shortened list of questions.
- Answers about officials — your governor, your representative, the Speaker — change over time. Check current names before your interview.