**Civics Questions and Answers (2020 version)**

Listed below are 30 questions selected from the 2020 version of the US Citizenship test. The test, administered orally, selects 20 questions from the 128 possible, and requires 60% correct to pass. Can you answer 60% right, or 18 of these 30 questions?

# AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

## A: Principles of American Government

1. **What is the form of government of the United States?**
   * Republic
   * Constitution-based federal republic
   * Representative democracy
2. **What is the supreme law of the land? \***
   * (U.S.) Constitution

**5. How are changes made to the U.S. Constitution?**

* + Amendments
  + The amendment process

**8. Why is the Declaration of Independence important?**

* It says America is free from British control.
* It says all people are created equal.
* It identifies inherent rights.
* It identifies individual freedoms.

**12. What is the economic system of the United States? \***

* Capitalism
* Free market economy

## B: System of Government

1. **Name the three branches of government.**
   * Legislative, executive, and judicial
   * Congress, president, and the courts

**18. What part of the federal government writes laws?**

* + (U.S.) Congress
  + (U.S. or national) legislature
  + Legislative branch

**20. Name one power of the U.S. Congress. \***

* + Writes laws
  + Declares war
  + Makes the federal budget

**22. How long is a term for a U.S. senator?**

* + Six (6) years

**24. How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?**

* + Four hundred thirty-five (435)

**28. Why does each state have two senators?**

* + Equal representation (for small states)
  + The Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise)

**37. The President of the United States can serve only two terms. Why?**

* + (Because of) the 22nd Amendment
  + To keep the president from becoming too powerful

**44. Who vetoes bills? \***

* + The President (of the United States)

**53. How many seats are on the Supreme Court?**

* + Nine (9)

**60. What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment?**

* + (It states that the) powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or to the people.

## C: Rights and Responsibilities

**66. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance? \***

* + The United States
  + The flag

# AMERICAN HISTORY

## A: Colonial Period and Independence

**74. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived? \***

* + American Indians
  + Native Americans

**77. Name one reason why the Americans declared independence from Britain.**

* + High taxes
  + Taxation without representation
  + British soldiers stayed in Americans’ houses (boarding, quartering)
  + They did not have self-government
  + Boston Massacre
  + Boston Tea Party (Tea Act)
  + Stamp Act
  + Sugar Act
  + Townshend Acts
  + Intolerable (Coercive) Acts

**78. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? \***

* + (Thomas) Jefferson

**83. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.**

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

**86. George Washington is famous for many things. Name one. \***

* + “Father of Our Country”
  + First president of the United States
  + General of the Continental Army
  + President of the Constitutional Convention

## B: 1800s

1. **What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?**
   * Louisiana Territory
   * Louisiana

**94. Abraham Lincoln is famous for many things. Name one. \***

* + Freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)
  + Saved (or preserved) the Union
  + Led the United States during the Civil War
  + 16th president of the United States
  + Delivered the Gettysburg Address

**97. What amendment gives citizenship to all persons born in the United States?**

* + 14th Amendment

## C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

**101. Why did the United States enter World War I?**

* + Because Germany attacked U.S. (civilian) ships
  + To support the Allied Powers (England, France, Italy, and Russia)
  + To oppose the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria)

**102. When did all women get the right to vote?**

* + 1920
  + After World War I
  + (With the) 19th Amendment

**107. Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one.**

* + General during World War II
  + President at the end of (during) the Korean War
  + 34th president of the United States
  + Signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 (Created the Interstate System)

**113. Martin Luther King, Jr. is famous for many things. Name one. \***

* + Fought for civil rights
  + Worked for equality for all Americans
  + Worked to ensure that people would “not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character”

**117. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.**

* + Apache
  + Blackfeet
  + Cayuga
  + Cherokee
  + Cheyenne
  + Chippewa
  + Choctaw
  + Creek
  + Crow
  + Hopi
  + Huron
  + Inupiat
  + Lakota
  + Mohawk
  + Mohegan
  + Navajo
  + Oneida
  + Onondaga
  + Pueblo
  + Seminole
  + Seneca
  + Shawnee
  + Sioux
  + Teton
  + Tuscarora

For a complete list of tribes, please visit [bia.gov.](https://www.bia.gov/)

# SYMBOLS AND HOLIDAYS

**126. Name three national U.S. holidays. \***

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