**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